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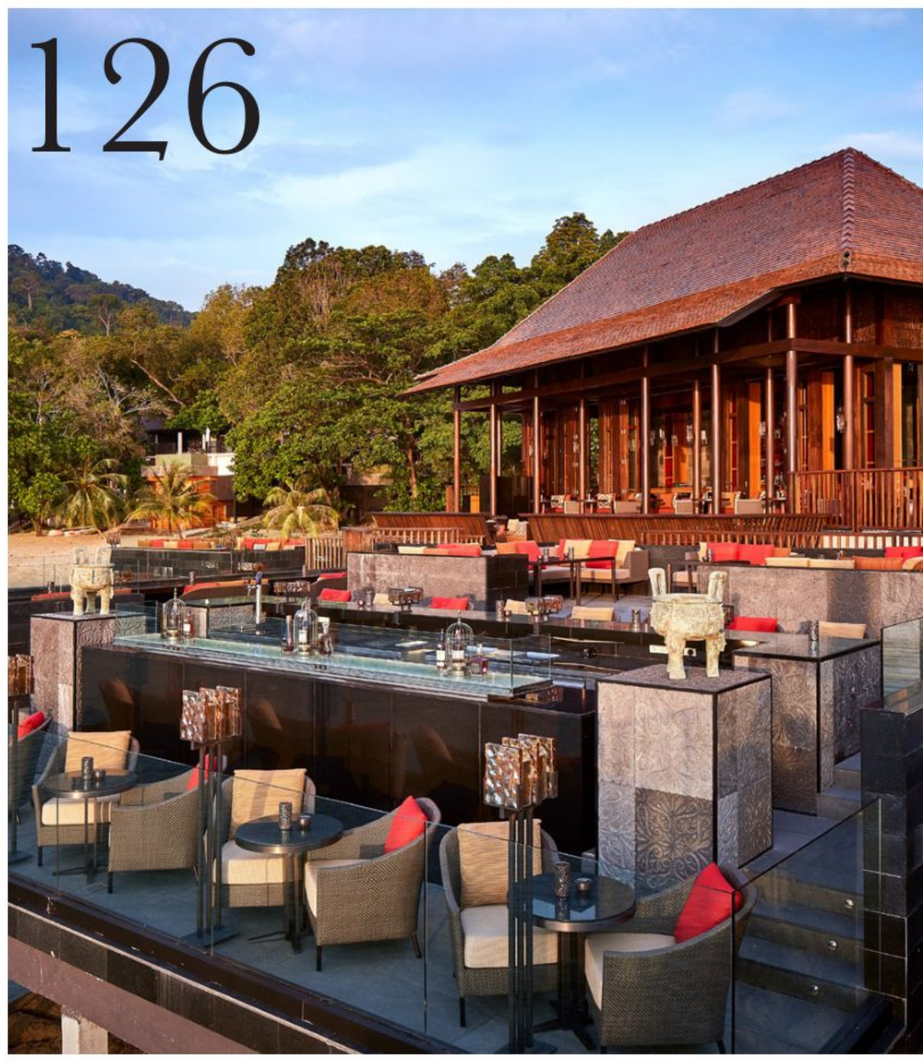

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Paris may be the city of love, but Rome is all about romance, finds Georgina Cassels

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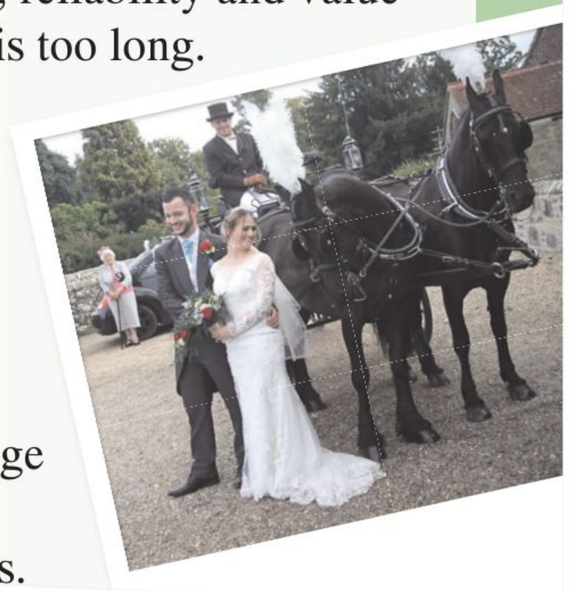

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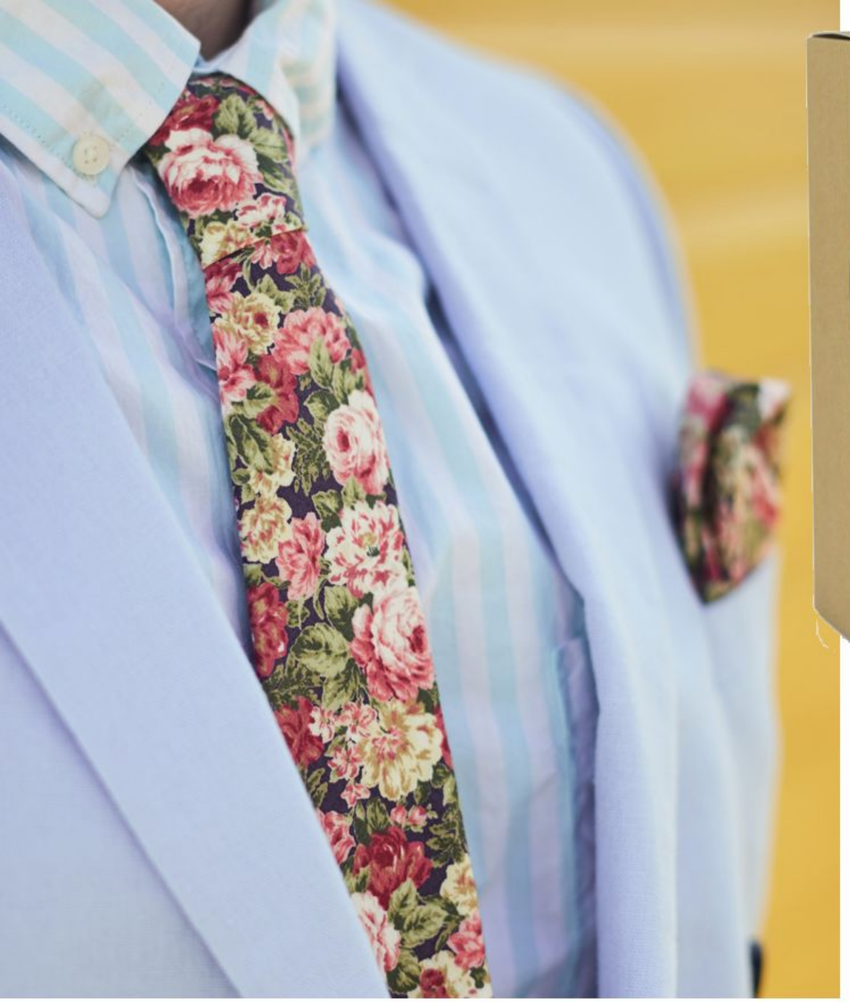

▲ Gents, join in with the floral craze! Sharpen up your look with a floral tie and pocket square. They look dapper with a pale-hued suit and shirt. The tie is £35 from notonthehighstreet.com

▲ Banish winter skin dryness from your hands and embrace the spring. Try this moisturising rose petal hand cream, rich in shea butter. £7.50 from thesomersettoiletryco.co.uk

▲ If you're anything like me, you'll look for any excuse to invest in some beautiful new stationery! What better reason than planning your wedding? Check out this gorgeous pink floral notebook by Rifle Paper Co, and keep a record of all your ideas. £13 from papermash.co.uk

Spring has sprung

Despite being a self-confessed winterholic, I can't say I was sorry to see the back of the dark nights. When I think of spring, what immediately comes to mind is new life. There's just something in the air, with trees blooming and wonderful spring flowers blossoming. So if you have a gorgeous spring wedding planned, excellent choice, I say!

As the season brings with it a shift in wedding trends, I'm excited to see what this year brings. I'm already daydreaming about contemporary rustic hues with a dash of vintage chintz – dusty blue, soft green, lemon yellow and the Pantone colour of the year, Living Coral, all of which have been the inspiration behind my picks for these pages. Fresh, clean and fun – just glorious!

As soon as the weather starts brightening up, I love to get out for day trips. There are so many corners of our fabulous country to explore. Here in Sussex, we have a wealth of historic properties and plenty where you can host a wedding. Check out our roundup on page 31.

We're all about the finer details in this issue. From the venue to, well, you, it's those final little elements that help bring everything together perfectly. That's why we'll be guiding you through our A-Z of finishing touches (page 75), as well as talking to the county's beauty professionals to get the lowdown on creating your bridal look (page 105).

Don't forget, if you'd like to see your own "I dos" in the magazine, just drop me a line at kellya@kdmediapublishing.com

Happy planning, one and all!

Kelly x

▲ Chintz china is the perfect complement to a rustic wedding. Why not serve your after-dinner tea and coffee in these chic Katie Alice Ditsy Floral Collection cups and saucers from creative-tops.com

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▲ Birds and flowers: two of my favourite things! I love this oh-so cute gold-hued necklace, £23.50 from notonthehighstreet.com

Flower walls are a simply fabulous trend in venue décor. Check out this fun and frivolous paper version from talkingtables.co.uk

◀ Looking for a quirky idea for your place names? Look no further than these Mini Glass Vase Place Card Holders. Add a delicately scented spring blooms, and you're good to go. £4.99 for a pack of four from gingerray.co.uk

◀ A flower crown epitomises the laidback boho bride feel. Check out the Rosalie Floral Wreath Crown by Rock 'N Rose, £48 from notonthehighstreet.com. Made from silk flowers, you'll be able to treasure it forever.

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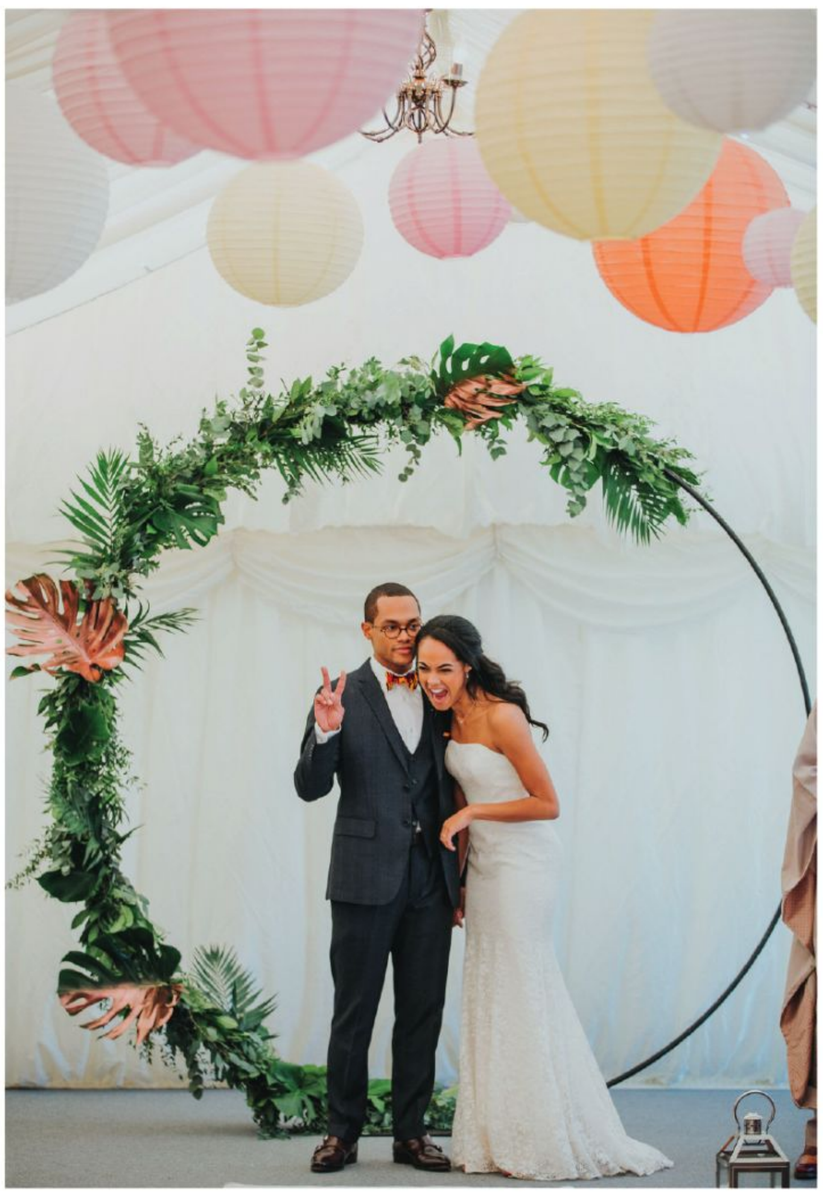
for the not so average couple.



STYLING

Set up and style service.
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FLOWERS

By asking NYA to style your venue and design your flowers, you can be assured that the floral design work will compliment and flow from the bridal party to the venue styling effortlessly.

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THE 2018 WEDDING INDUSTRY AWARDS NATIONAL WINNER

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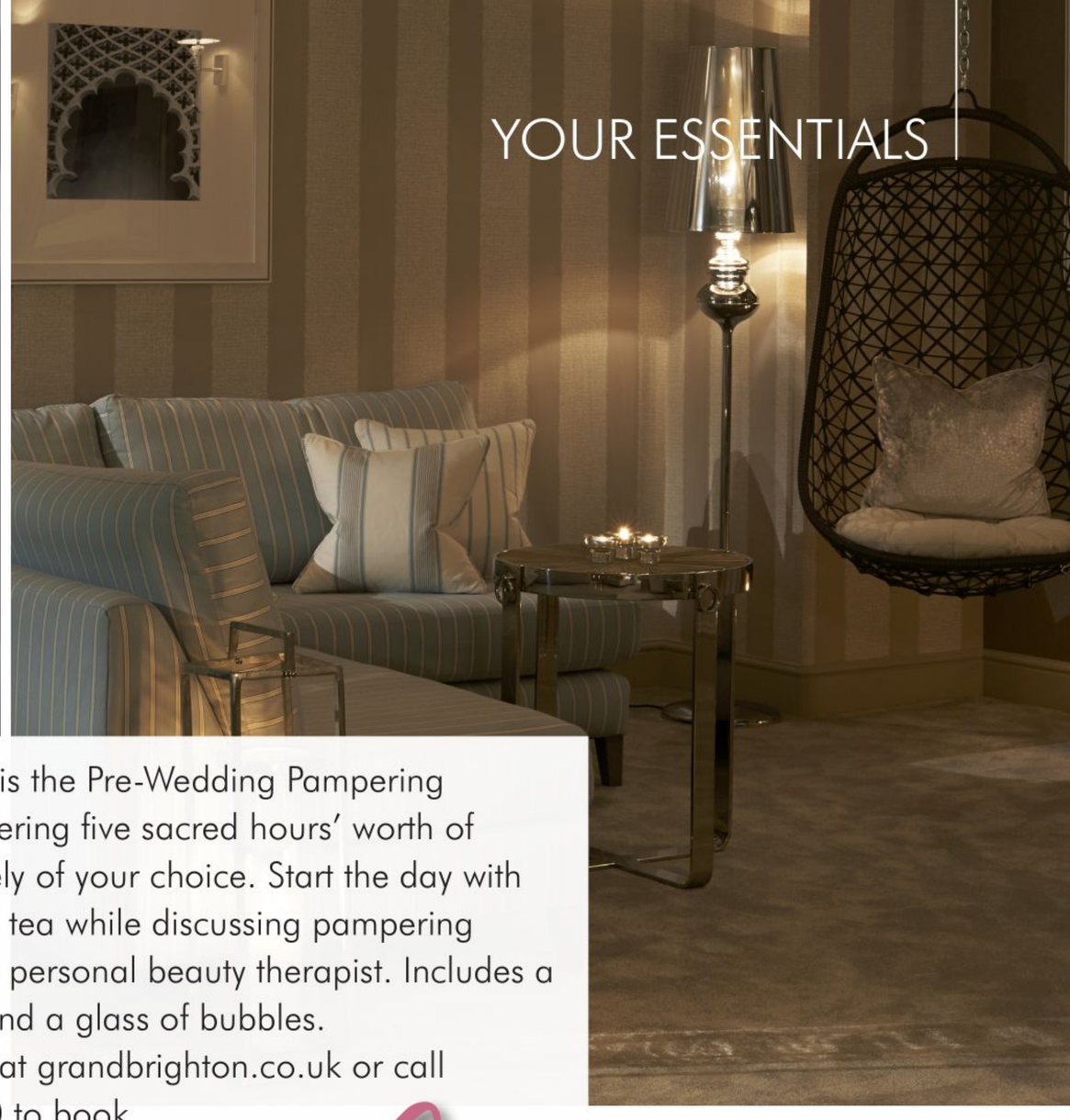

BEAUTY AND THE BEACH

The Spa at The Grand Brighton has launched wedding make-up packages for the bride, mother-of-the-bride and the bridal party. The looks are created using vegan and cruelty-free beauty brand E.L.F Cosmetics. The bride will receive a pre-wedding consultation to discuss and create your perfect look with a make-up artist.

Also available is the Pre-Wedding Pampering spa package, offering five sacred hours' worth of treatments, entirely of your choice. Start the day with a calming herbal tea while discussing pampering options with your personal beauty therapist. Includes a delicious lunch and a glass of bubbles.

Find out more at grandbrighton.co.uk or call 01273 224 300 to book.

Nearlywed NEWS

The latest news from around the county

FROM INDIA TO SUSSEX

We love bringing you fabulous brands based in our county and feel super proud of the wonderful products produced here. So drum roll, please, as we introduce you to local beauty brand Made By Coopers Apothecary. Created by Clare and Darren Cooper from an idea inspired by their travels around India on a yoga expedition, the brand believes in creating natural, clean products that leave your skin radiant and nourished and your mind and body restored to perfect harmony. All products are 100 per cent free from parabens, SLS, mineral oil, palm oil, sulfates, artificial colours and synthetic fragrances. This gorgeous range of products will help you feel revived, relaxed, rejuvenated and looking beautiful and blissed out, ready for the big day. What more could you ask?

Check out madebycoopers.com

BLOOMIN' FABULOUS

Since award-winning venue stylist Not Your Average I Do launched its floral wedding service in November, using expert know-how and equipment from its venue styling service, it's gone from strength to strength. The latest launch from the company to hit the wedding market is large foliage and floral installations.

So whether you're looking for a suspended foliage ceiling, floral chandeliers, free-standing arches or amazing ceremony backdrops, for bespoke designs and statement pieces, be sure to check out notyouraverageido.com/flowers

VENUE OFFER!

Southdowns Manor is offering the chance to tie the knot at the venue on any remaining dates until September 2019 for £3,999 or under. The offer is based on 50 guests and comes includes all the venue's famous finishing touches, such as a three-course wedding breakfast and an overnight stay in the honeymoon suite.

Check out the whole package at southdownsmanor.co.uk and call 01730 763 800 to discover available dates.

FESTIVAL CHIC

Sam Nash, the brains behind Bumble Bell Tents, has been a busy bee in the last year growing a fleet of fully-furnished luxury bell tents to an impressive 120. With a huge buzz surrounding festival weddings this year, the company is at the forefront of this themed concept. Sam as 20 years events experience and a little black book of secrets, tools and know-how to create a large scale dreamy outdoor wedding festival. From building an on-site pop up hotel to giant tipi structures and providing caterers and mobile bar hire to a full event management service, Bumble Bell Tents can make sure your special day is a roaring success.

Find out more at bumblebell.co.uk

NEON DREAMS

Add some wow to your wedding with these neon signs, the newest launch from the creative team at To Have & To Hire Events. Right on-trend, they can be used for ceremony or photo booth backdrops, illuminating the dancefloor, or even as a focal point around your wedding cake. They're also available as personalised signs for you to treasure forever.

Check out tohaveandtohireweddings.com

KEY TO SUCCESS

When you wed at Ashdown Park Hotel & Country Club, you're in safe hands, with staff at the peak of their profession. Joe McGinn, head concierge at the venue, was recently accepted into The Society of Golden Keys of Great Britain. General manager of Ashdown Park Hotel Ben Booker commented: "I am thrilled that Joe has been recognised by his peers across the industry for his dedication and commitment to our guests. The concierge team is an essential part of the Ashdown Park experience and Joe has a true passion for leading and developing his team to ensure they wow our clients at all times."

For more on Ashdown Park, check out ashdownpark.com

BOXING CLEVER

With retail sales and corporate gifts thriving for The WhiteBox Company, the gifting brand is now dipping its toe into the world of wedding fever to join in the big day excitement. The folk at WhiteBox recognise that planning your wedding can be extremely time-consuming and, at times, nerve-racking. Here to lend a hand in putting together some wonderful thank you gifts to make your guests feel as special as you.

Its new line in bridesmaid, groomsmen and wedding thank you gifts is already going down a treat, with brides loving the personal touch. Packaging can be created to match your palette and printed or engraved with a special wedding message.

Pre-curated, ready-to-buy gifts and the ability to build your own box, The WhiteBox Company has it covered. So join the revolution, and check out whiteboxcompany.co.uk

YOUR INNER GODDESS

If you're recently engaged with plans to shop together for your forever engagement ring, read on. Boutique jeweller Arabel Lebrusan has launched her Hera Collection of women's engagement rings in her new Brighton showroom. The Collection has been designed to celebrate the goddess within, with individual pieces being named after powerful Greek mythological women: Hera, Demeter and Hestia.

The selection of ethical engagement rings features bezel-set solitaire and trilogy arrangements of traceable Canadian diamonds, lab-grown yellow diamonds and Malawi sapphires and rubies. All pieces are crafted from ethical 18-carat gold or recycled platinum and presented in 100 per cent recyclable boxes.

To find out more, go to arabellebrusan.com

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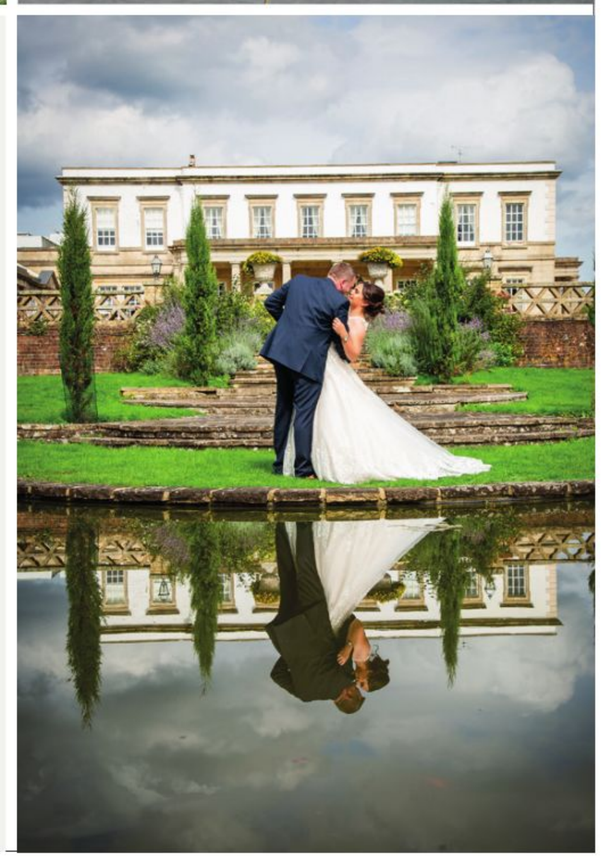

WORTH £150

RADIANT RECOVERY

Clinic Privée, Haywards Heath, has a hyper-luxe feel, with beautifully high ceilings and a calm space paired with the exquisite interior elegance of emerald velvet loungers, splashes of gold detailing, ambient lighting and mirrored surfaces. The treatment rooms are wonderfully tranquil and boast stunning chandeliers at their centre.

We're delighted to be able to offer our readers the chance to win a Detox Facial at Clinic Privée. Labelled "the retreat your skin needs for an instant radiance boost", it's an 85-minute treatment designed to be the ultimate recovery for tired, congested and lacklustre skin in seven advanced purifying steps.

Enter via our website by 7th June. Terms and conditions apply.
Check out clinicpriveeltd.com for more on its treatments and services.

Freebies & OFFERS

Take advantage of these gorgeous giveaways and fab offers

15% OFF

Luxurious lingerie

County Wedding Magazines is delighted to have teamed up with online fashion store Kaleidoscope to offer our lucky readers 15% off the Miraclesuit and Naomi & Nicole shapewear.

Whether you're looking for an extra-firm control garment like the Tummy Tuck from Miraclesuit or a gorgeous smoothing undergarment like A Little Lace from Naomi & Nicole, Kaleidoscope stocks a fabulous range.

Simply enter code 'QSBP' at the checkout before the 1st May, 2019.

Check out the range at kaleidoscope.co.uk

MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

Gina Llewellyn founded Sussex-based beauty company A Touch Unique in May 2017 after discovering OliveAll. The allergy certified, vegan-friendly brand also against animal testing, offers beauty with a conscience. The product is made from organic, cold-pressed extra virgin olive oil obtained from 5,000 trees situated just south of Chania in Crete. This high-quality oil contains no unnecessary additives, making it an ideal ingredient for eczema and psoriasis sufferers. OliveAll is available from A Touch Unique along with CurlyEllie and its own brand.

Your Sussex Wedding has teamed up with this lovely local business to offer you a £3 discount site-wide. Simply head over to atouchunique.co.uk, fill up your basket and enter "£3 off" at the checkout to claim your discount. Offer code available until 7th June. Terms and conditions apply.

BRING THE SALON HOME

KISS is the world's largest manufacturer and supplier of professional quality nail products and lash and brow kits. Its innovative designs are perfect for brides-to-be who are looking to save on salon prices without compromising on quality.

County Wedding Magazines is delighted to have teamed up with KISS to give our lucky readers the chance to win a beauty bundle, worth £100.

The bundle includes:
- ❤ Six KISS Lashes
- ❤ Six KISS Nails
- ❤ KISS eyelash glue
- ❤ KISS 'Wing It' eyeliner

WORTH £100

Check out, kisseurope.uk for more products.

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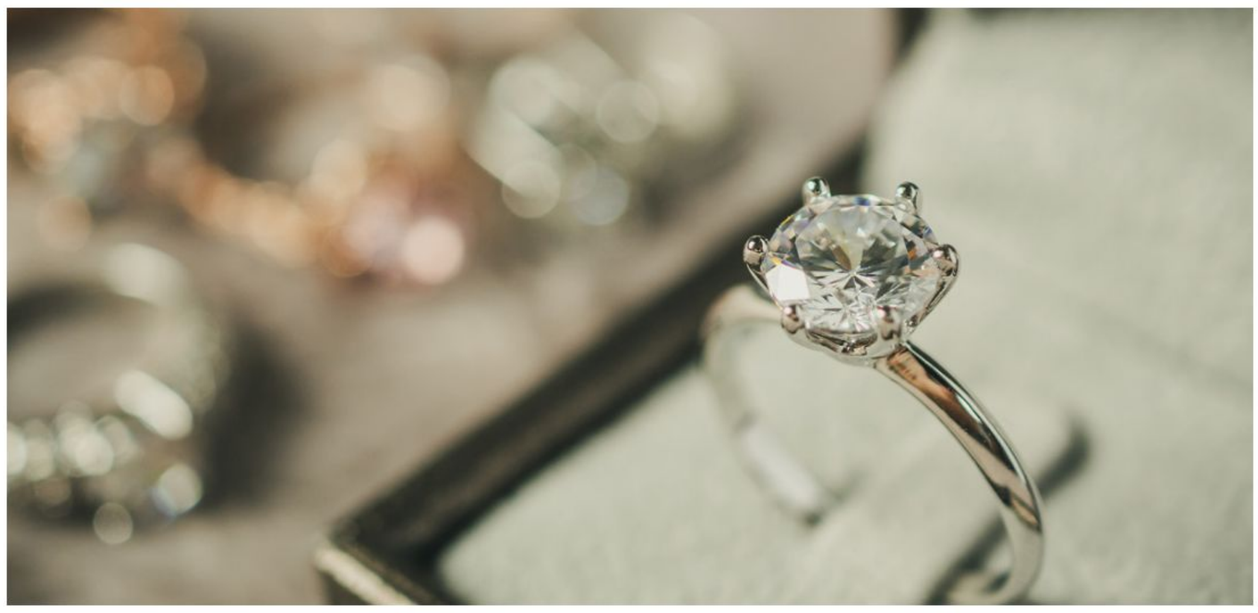
Closing date 7th June 2019, unless stated otherwise.

The wonderful world OF WEDDINGS

Annie Cannock brings you the latest news from around the country



PASS IT ON

Millennials and Gen Zs are more likely to sell a family member's hand-me-down wedding dress than they are to keep or rework it into their own gown, according to a new survey of 2,000 people aged 18 to 35.

The survey, ran by jewellers Hancocks, found that less than a tenth of the younger generations would keep a relative's wedding dress if it was gifted or passed down to them, and an even smaller 3.45 per cent would keep wedding china.

However, 68 per cent do want jewellery passed down to them, specifically engagement rings and wedding bands.

The survey also showed that less than a third would want treasured family photo albums, less than a tenth would keep letters or diaries and less than one per cent would be happy to receive furniture.

For more information, visit hancocks-london.com

THE BLING RING

With proposal season upon us Lorna Haddon, head of diamond rings and jewellery at Beaverbrooks reveals 2019's biggest trends;

❤ HALO DESIGNS

Halo rings aren't going anywhere – these will always be a classic. They've been created to attract attention, with a single central diamond encased by smaller stones, giving an extra serve of sparkle and creating a style that is reminiscent of vintage eras.

❤ COLOURED GEMS

This year we expect to continue seeing brides-to-be turning to different hues for a more personalised piece.

❤ PEAR-CUT DIAMONDS

While they might have once been considered unusual, they're rapidly gaining in popularity.

❤ BESPOKE TWISTS

In recent years it's been all about the bling but in 2019 we'll see this take a twist – quite literally. This could be a simple twisted, polished platinum band or a central diamond enhanced by row of smaller diamonds entwined with the band.

For more information, visit beaverbrooks.co.uk

Check it out...

It's no secret that I'm a bit of a stationery fiend, so I just had to share Paperchase's new wedding collection. It includes gorgeous new stationery designs, planners, and bride and groom llama plushes. To see the full range, visit paperchase.com

Keeping it civil

The UK may be tying the knot more than ever but church weddings are undoubtedly on the decline, with many Brits opting for civil ceremonies instead.

The information was collected by wedding planning company Scarlet Events, it obtained the data by the Freedom of Information act, which requested statistics from councils across the country on how many religious and civil weddings were held between 1st June 2017 and 31st May, 2018.

Of the 431 councils contacted, there were 96 that held the data and were able to provide exact figures for the survey.

Within those regions, there was a total of only 30,032 religious ceremonies during the time period, as opposed to a staggeringly larger number of 87,686 civil weddings, showing just how popular non-religious ceremonies are becoming.

For more information, visit scarletevents.com

The white hot list

MODERN WEDDING, KELSEY MCKINNON, £30.99, WORKMAN.COM
Weddings can be complicated beasts and with the industry being so trend-driven it can be hard to keep afloat. Author McKinnon brings together a comprehensive need-to-know guide complete with gorgeous real-life case studies to illustrate her points. This is definitely something to add to your reading list in 2019.

THE NEWLYWED'S COOKBOOK, £19.99, RYLANDPETERS.COM
With delicious recipes and gorgeous photography, what's not to love about this little gem? From Sunday roast to Asian noodle bowls and everything in between, as the title suggest it's ideal for those who have just tied the knot and want a laid back date night activity, as the book gives you the opportunity to spend some time together to create and enjoy a delectable meal.

UNICORN SHIMMER PROSECCO DROPS, £3.99 EACH, TEAMHEN.CO.UK
These fun drops are ideal for your hen party, not only do they add a sparkly hue to prosecco, gin or even cocktails, but they also add flavour. The set includes passion fruit, rhubarb, lime plus many more and the tiny bottle has enough glitz for up to 80 drinks!

THE GILDED CAKE, FAYE CAHILL, £19.99, SEWANDSO.CO.UK
When it comes to wedding cakes Faye Cahill is well known on an international level for her eye for detail. Cahill's new read is a step-by-step guide to creating the perfect metallic-themed cake, which is still set to be a dominating trend in 2019. There are 12 illustrated projects which you can try your hand at.

BOKA MARSHMALLOWS, £10 FOR 24 BAGS, BOKAFOOD.CO.UK
If you're looking for a healthy snack that will still satisfy your sweet tooth, then look no further than Boka's new marshmallows. The tasty vanilla treats come in 17g bags, which each boast just 35 calories. They're completely green on the food trafficking system and are also fat and sugar free. They're the perfect pre-wedding guilt-free snack!

THE ODD FLOWER, FROM £39, THEODDFLOWER.COM
A new delightful flower subscription box which focuses on bringing elegant blooms into its clients' homes. Harnessing inspiration from the British seasons, the arrangements will not feature flowers out of character, which is ideal for those nearlyweds looking for floral inspiration in the lead up to their big day.

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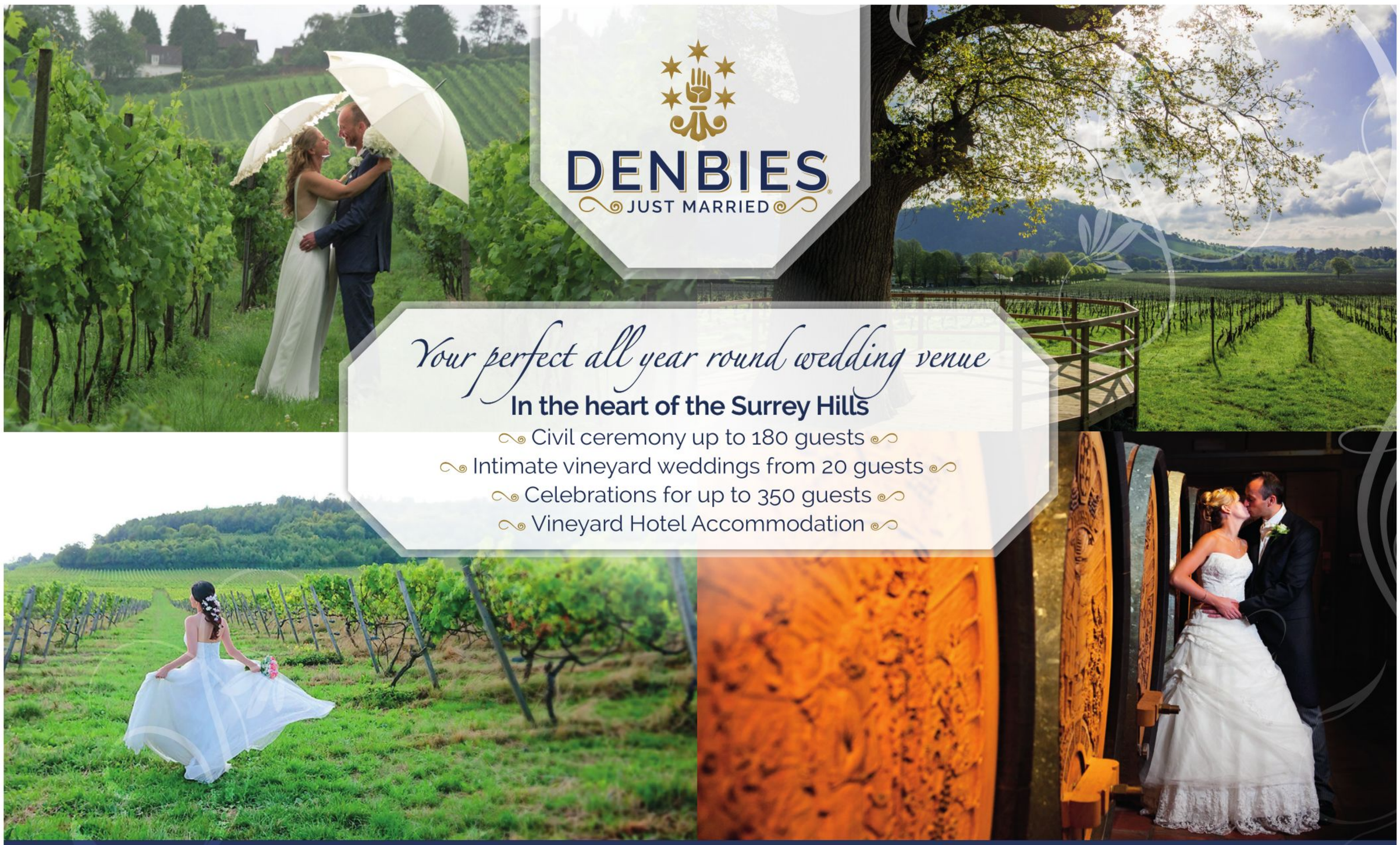

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cwe | COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

WEDDING SHOWS

ALL EVENTS 11AM - 3PM

unless otherwise stated

At County Wedding Events our aim is to help you find the perfect venue and suppliers for your wedding day.

All our events offer free entry, a complimentary goody bag with our latest glossy magazine as well as the opportunity to enter prize draw competitions and take advantage of exclusive offers and discounts on the day.

Each wedding show is hosted by a stunning venue and attended by a wide variety of quality exhibitors ready to offer help and advice in planning your day.

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Stanmer Park Road, Brighton, BN1 9QA

SUNDAY 12TH MAY

Ghyll Manor
High Street, Rusper, Horsham, RH12 4PX

SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

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ALL EVENTS 11AM - 3PM
unless otherwise stated

KENT

Hever Hotel
Hever Road,
Hever, TN8 7NP

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL

Chart Hills
Weeks Lane,
Biddenden,
Ashford, TN27 8JX

SUNDAY 19TH MAY

Tudor Park
Ashford Road,
Bearsted,
Maidstone, ME14 4NQ

SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

The Spa Hotel
Mount Ephraim,
Tunbridge Wells,
TN4 8XJ

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

ESSEX

Maylands Golf Club
Colchester Road,
Romford, RM3 0AZ

SUNDAY 14TH APRIL

Greenwoods Hotel & Spa
Stock Road, Stock,
CM4 9BE

SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

Houchins
Houchins Farm,
Coggeshall, CO6 1RT

SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

Stifford Hall Hotel
High Road, Stifford,
Thurrock, RM16 5UE

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

BRISTOL & SOMERSET

Ston Easton
Nr. Bath,
Somerset,
BA3 4DF

SUNDAY 28TH APRIL

EAST ANGLIA

Bressingham Hall & High Barn
Low Road,
Diss, IP22 2AA

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

GLOS & WILTS

Hatton Court
Upton Hill,
Upton St Leonards,
Gloucester, GL4 8DE

SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER

HERTS & BEDS

Putteridge Bury
Hitchin Road,
Luton, LU2 8LE

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Brentwood, CM15 9NN

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Ascot Racecourse,
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Berkshire, SL5 7JX

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As part of KD Media Publishing Ltd, County Wedding Events (CWE) is ideally placed to offer you a wealth of experience organising events in the wedding industry.

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Spotlight on... NORTH SUSSEX

Tie the knot in a fabulous local hotspot

THE RAVENSWOOD

01342 810 216 | theravenswood.co.uk

Built in 1426, this manor house, filled with character and charm, boasts wooden beams, cosy corners, warm fireplaces and elegant staircases. Set within 18 acres of grounds, you'll immediately be taken away by the elegance and charm of the place as you arrive via the private driveway. Grand entrances and tall, castle-like towers await. The extensive grounds feature four lakes, ruins, bridges, a boathouse, pleasure gardens, patio and even a giant chair!

You'll be able to enjoy a complimentary menu tasting ahead of the big day, as well as access to the Getting Ready Room and use of the refurbished honeymoon suite, all of which are included in your wedding package.

THE VOWS

For al fresco nuptials, the Little Castle is an idyllic spot. With outdoor seating for up to 150 loved ones, its characterful stone walls and side windows provide a fairytale focal point as guests look on.

Also capable of holding 150 is the Old Baronial Hall. The space boasts a rustic feel, with wooden beams, grand staircase, open wood fire and glass door, allowing views of the grounds.

Also available is the newly renovated Jacobean Suite.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

For the wedding breakfast, the Princess Beatrice Suite can seat 160. A gorgeous round room with a wooden ceiling, elegant drapes, large windows and its own bar, you'll be free to celebrate noon 'til night.

JEREMY'S RESTAURANT

01444 441 102 | jeremysrestaurant.co.uk

Jeremy's, part of a country estate in the heart of West Sussex, is a romantic venue with a focus on great modern food and friendly service. The interior is a sunlit space bursting with colour, vivid artwork and delightful views across the gardens. Very much established as a garden venue, the grounds feature expansive terracing and a Victorian walled garden, with a vine- and wisteria-covered walkway. Flowers, herbs and vegetables intermingle in the garden borders and may even find their way on to your plate!

THE VOWS

The venue, which you can book for exclusive use, is licensed for 55 seated guests, so you can host your civil ceremony there, or head over after church vows. Jeremy's will even create floral arrangements for the occasion to match your palette.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Whether you're looking for a laidback or formal affair, seated or mingling, for 12 people or 120, the team at Jeremy's will work with you to ensure your wedding food and wine meet your requirements. With a couple of hundred wines on the list from all over the world and a wealth of sparkling wines and champagnes, you'll be spoilt for choice.

Meet and mix with drinks on the terrace or lawns, and then continue cocktail-style or move to your tables, seating up to 55 in the restaurant or 120 in the double-sided marquee overlooking the gardens. For a drinks reception with canapés, you could extend your guest list even further to include 70 in the restaurant or 200 in the marquee.

LEONARDSLEE LAKES & GARDENS

01403 220 345 | leonardsleegardens.co.uk

This beautiful 19th-century Italianate-style mansion house offers a stunning setting for a stylish wedding ceremony and reception. Its classic style, complete with the beautiful, recently installed fountain, offers a romantic setting for your arrival. The house's imposing façade features magnificent trees and well-nurtured shrubs, collected from around the world.

The Grade I listed woodland gardens offer outstanding displays of rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, magnolias and bluebells, a collection curated worldwide and established in the early 1800s. The 240-acre estate features lakes, woodlands and parkland, a Pulham rock garden, a doll's house museum, wallaby colony and vineyard.

THE VOWS

Your ceremony can take place inside the Mansion House with 90 of your loved ones or 100 in the bespoke marquee situated alongside the building. You can then make your way into the impressive grounds for some stunning photography.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

The venue offers drinks packages to complement your event, which can be designed around you using South African estate wines from Benguela Cove. Once that's sorted, you can party the night away in the marquee, which has capacity for 200 guests. To get a feel for the venue, you can pop along to any of its wedding fairs, which are held throughout the year and free to enter.

Magical setting, inspirational food

At Jeremy's Restaurant, we host a number of very special weddings each year. One of *The Times* top ten most romantic restaurants, we're renowned in Sussex for our stylish food and warm welcome.

Our marquee is available all year round, its sides opening on sunny days onto a Victorian walled garden with orchard, lawns, herbaceous borders and a vine-hung walkway.

Come after the church or hold your civil ceremony here. Make it formal, or relaxed, a canapé reception or sit-down meal, or perhaps a buffet or barbecue.

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Jeremy's
restaurant

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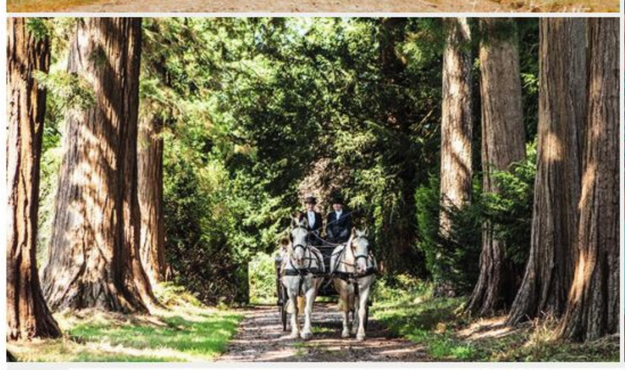
E: weddings@jeremysrestaurant.com T: 01444 441102 www.jeremysrestaurant.co.uk

Patrick's Barn



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www.oldtollgatehotel.com

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MANNINGS HEATH GOLF & WINE ESTATE

01403 210 228 | manningsheath.com

A peaceful and remote setting conveniently close to Horsham, the 100-year-old clubhouse at Mannings Heath offers breathtaking views of the landscaped golf course and estate from its sweeping terraces. The 500-acre estate is a jewel in the crown of Sussex's downlands. Carefully tended by a dedicated team of gardeners and ground staff, the parkland is pristine.

Whether your style is classic or contemporary, you can put your own stamp on the venue with the help of its highly experienced wedding coordinators.

Naturally, your wedding on a wine estate wouldn't be complete without a wine tasting or experience, both available either for yourselves or with your wedding party at Mannings Heath.

THE VOWS

You can invite 100 of your nearest and dearest to witness your "I dos" in the Latilla Campbell Suite.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

The Latilla Campbell Suite can also transition into your reception venue, with 100 seated for the wedding breakfast and 150 mingling at the evening do. For al fresco celebrations, you also have the option to use the upper and lower terraces, which can host 150 guests for seated dining.

PATRICK'S BARN

01342 811 706 | thegardenchef.net

Patrick's Barn is a 16th-century timber-frame building with exposed beams. The beauty of which is that is provides a blank canvas to create any theme your heart desires.

Adjacent to the barn you'll find the Byre, a large covered space with wonderfully rustic woodchip floors and festoon lighting. Still used to house the farm's cows in the winter, they're out in the fields during the summer so more than happy to let you use the space for your big-day celebrations. The Byre also hosts Patrick's Bar.

The venue offers exceptional natural beauty with Chiddinglye itself offering 11 acres of gorgeous gardens with magnificent views over the High Weald to Chanctonbury Ring.

Expert catering is provided by The Garden Chef and there is only one wedding at the venue per weekend, so you'll have the luxury of the preceding week to set up.

THE VOWS

Celebrant-led ceremonies are held in the great outdoors, surrounded by the beautiful gardens. You can invite 150 of your nearest and dearest to join you and chairs, tables and even a sound system are all provided for you as part of your wedding package.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

The venue can accommodate 120 for the wedding breakfast. You and your loved ones can then carry on partying into the night in the gardens unless of course the heavens open, in which case you'll be welcomed into the warmth of the Byre.

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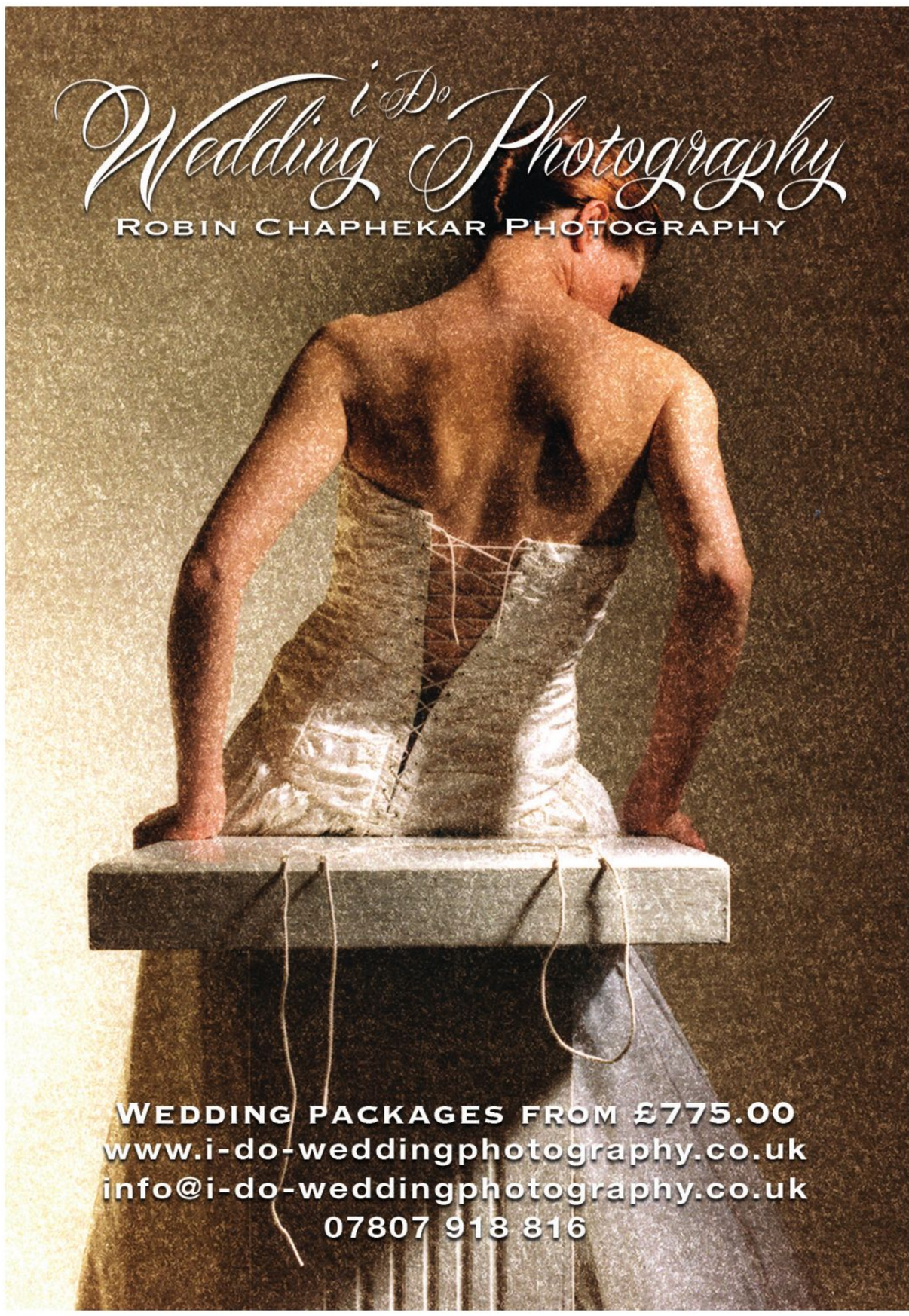

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01903 723 511 | hshotels.co.uk

Walking into Bailiffscourt is like stepping into the past. Sumptuous, timeless and inspiring, it offers a romantic setting with an elegant ambience for weddings, whatever the time of year. Thirty-nine beautiful bedrooms and suites, some with open fireplaces and four-poster beds, are scattered throughout the Medieval-style house, thatched houses and cottages, all set within 30 acres of private parkland.

A few steps from the hotel, you'll find the luxurious and contemporary spa, featuring an indoor pool, outdoor heated infinity pool, hot tub, fitness suite, relaxation lounge and six treatment rooms.

The gardens boast an original 13th-century Normal chapel. Oozing with character, the venue's exterior space also features a beautiful rose-clad courtyard, croquet lawn, tennis courts, moat, small streams and an abundance of wildlife.

THE VOWS

The Music Room is the place to host your ceremony. A characterful room featuring hung tapestries, a working fireplace and wooden floors, it can hold 60 of your nearest and dearest to witness your "I dos."

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Should you wish you can stay on in the Music Room for your wedding breakfast, it can hold 40 for seated dining, with a further 25 for the evening. Alternatively, the Tapestry Restaurant is available. An elegant room designed in the Medieval style, it features mullioned windows and tapestry hung walls. You can invite 80 of your loved ones to join you for a sit-down meal and a further 40 evening revellers.

Did you know?

Despite looking very much like an ancient manor house, Bailiffscourt's best-kept secret is that until 1927… it didn't exist!

THE GEORGE IN RYE

01797 222 114 | thegeorgeinrye.com

In the middle of the cobbled high street in the Medieval town of Rye, you will find The George. Just 10 minutes' drive from the beach at Camber Sands, this Grade II listed building is now a four-star hotel and wedding venue synonymous with laid-back luxury.

With 34 beautifully decorated bedrooms, your guests won't be short of a spot to rest their weary feet. As the newlyweds, you can have your choice of bridal suits, one with its huge bed, enormous floor-length mirror, double roll-top bath and walk-in shower.

There is a wealth of idyllic photographic opportunities available in the shape of the hotel's pretty courtyard garden, Medieval Rye's cobbled streets and the 12th-century churchyard.

THE VOWS

The elegant Georgian ballroom and the adjacent 17th-century Benson room are licensed for ceremonies with capacities for 120 and 40, respectively, but you may prefer to use Rye's Town Hall, conveniently located less than a minute's walk away.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

The ballroom seats 120 loved ones and boasts a minstrel's gallery, chandeliers, large bay window and silk de Gournay hand-painted wallpaper. The more intimate Benson room on the other hand can accommodate 35 seated, complete with balcony overlooking the high street. It's also an excellent space for welcome drinks, as is the courtyard garden.

Did you know?

Dating back to 1575, The George has always been the focal meeting point in the town, entertaining three King Georges, Wellington and the Mayor of London.

THE GRAND BRIGHTON

01273 224 355 | grandbrighton.co.uk

Simultaneously luxurious and charming, The Grand Brighton blends contemporary statement furniture, with sumptuous Renaissance-style décor, accented by glossy Art Deco features. Designed and built in 1864, this historic hotel is an example of Italian influence in Victorian architecture, featuring ornate marble floors and a magnificent sweeping spiral staircase – all located a stone's throw from Brighton beach.

The hotel offers a complimentary stay in a deluxe sea-view bedroom, inclusive of breakfast and valet parking, as part of its wedding package, as well as a tasting menu for two.

THE VOWS

There are four licensed private event rooms available, which can accommodate anything from intimate gatherings to a 500-strong guest list. Located on the ground floor, the Consort Room is classic in design, and its neutral tones provide a perfect backdrop for chic nuptials.

The Regent Room is a traditional wood-panelled space that can accommodate up to 80 of your nearest and dearest.

GB2 is a beautifully appointed room and is ideal for larger ceremonies. Its bright classic-meets-contemporary décor and sea-view backdrop provide a scenic setting for "I dos."

Finally, the aptly named Empress Suite, classically designed, can easily be moulded to suit any colour scheme or theme.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

The same four function rooms are also available for your reception. The Regent Room gives you the opportunity to step outside for some beautiful post-ceremony photos and works perfectly for the drinks reception as well as the breakfast.

The Empress Suite is the biggest of the spaces, capable of holding 800 guests. Here you can dine together before continuing the celebrations in the adjoining sea-facing Pavilion Suite.

Did you know?

In October 2018, this iconic Brighton landmark revealed restorations to its famous 154-year-old exterior.

WORTHING DOME

01903 210 044 | worthingdomeevents.co.uk

Built in 1911, Worthing Dome is a Grade II listed building situated on the Sussex coastline and represents rich Edwardian architecture. The building is still a working heritage cinema with a plush interior, boasting many original features.

A highlight of the venue's exterior is the large south-facing balcony, running the width of the building and overlooking the beach. The promenade is but a stone's throw away, and the pier always proves to be a favourite spot for wedding photos. Equally accessible is Steyne Gardens, an attractive square surrounded by lovely period buildings.

THE VOWS

The main lounge is a classic room featuring ornate mouldings and iconic south-facing arched windows. You'll be able to invite plenty of your loved ones to join you for the "I dos," as it has a capacity for 150. Alternatively, the dramatic Whispering Gallery, boasting beautiful overhead steel framework, is a slightly more intimate space for 85 of your nearest and dearest. Both areas are beautifully light and offer stunning, uninterrupted views across the sea.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Both licensed spaces are also available to host post-vow celebrations. The Main Lounge is suitable for gatherings of all sizes, from large, informal parties of 190 to intimate wedding breakfasts for 30. The Whispering Gallery can cater for a meal with 40 guests and a further 45 for the evening bash.

Did you know?

A typical example of an Edwardian coastal town entertainment complex, Worthing Dome is one of the last of its kind still standing.

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Anne of Cleves House, Lewes, BN7

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01323 844 224 | sussexpast.co.uk

Michelham Priory is located in the beautiful Cuckmere Valley of East Sussex, close to the South Downs, offering complete tranquility. The moment you step through the 14th-century gatehouse, walking past the Tudor manor house to the Elizabethan Great Barn, your future meets the past.

The seven acres of beautiful gardens provide a multitude of stunning locations for your photographs. You'll have plenty of opportunity to carry on enjoying them after the big day, as an annual membership to the Sussex Archaeological Society is included in your wedding package.

THE VOWS

Ceremonies are held in the Great Elizabethan Barn, which is brimming with original features and charm. Capable of comfortably seating 130, the location is flexible to allow smaller parties without feeling overwhelmed by the space.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Just outside is the beautiful private moat terrace, a gorgeous spot for your drinks reception. Here you and your guests can enjoy romantic views overlooking the Priory house, historic watermill and moat.

Later on, move your celebrations back into the Great Barn, which seats 130 loved ones for dining and dancing.

Did you know?

Michelham Priory is sited on an island surrounded by England's longest Medival water-filled moat.

THE OLD SHIP HOTEL

01273 329 001 |

thecairncollection.co.uk

Standing proudly on Brighton's seafront and boasting panoramic sea views, this venue brings your wedding to the heart of the action. Situated just five minutes' walk from the Brighton Palace Pier, the historic Lanes shopping district and Sealife Centre, there's plenty for your guests to do while they're in town for your big day.

With 154 bedrooms, the four-star hotel excels at combining traditional heritage with the expectations of the modern world. Your guests can benefit from discounted accommodation, while your overnight stay is included in your wedding package.

THE VOWS

Several of The Old Ship's Grade II listed function rooms are available for your "I dos," including the Fecamp Lounge, which can host 70; the Gresham Suite, holding 80; and the largest of the three, the Regency Suite, with space for 120 loved ones.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

These suites can also host your post-vow celebrations. Alternatively, the historic 400-year-old cellars are available for intimate celebrations with 30 of your nearest and dearest. For a bigger bash, the Ballroom can host 150.

Did you know?

The Old Ship Hotel is one of the oldest hotels in Brighton, with parts of the building dating back to 1559.

Weddings at the Royal Pavilion

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pavilionweddings@brighton-hove.gov.uk

www.brightonmuseums.org.uk

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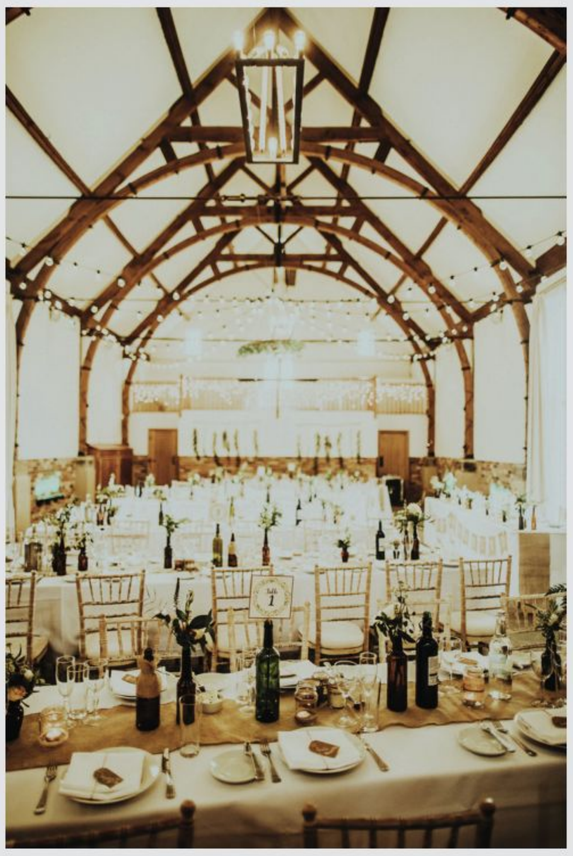

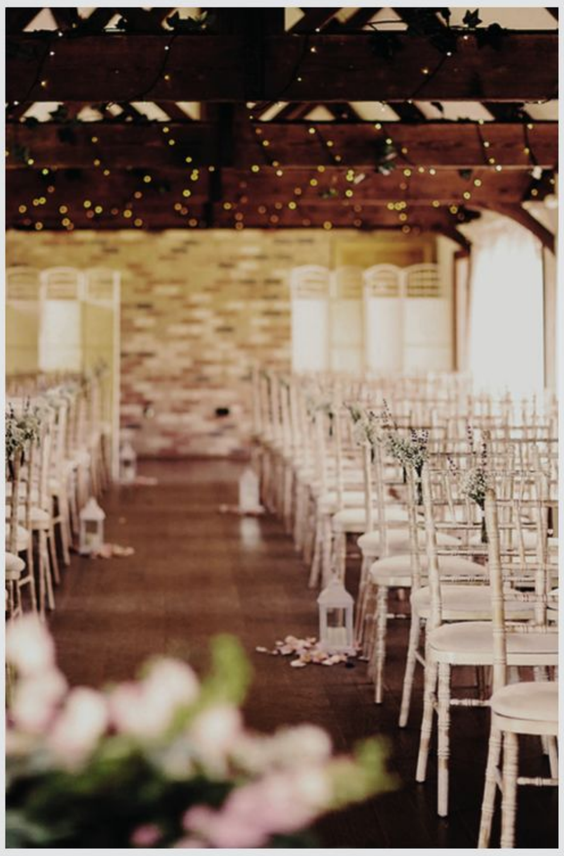

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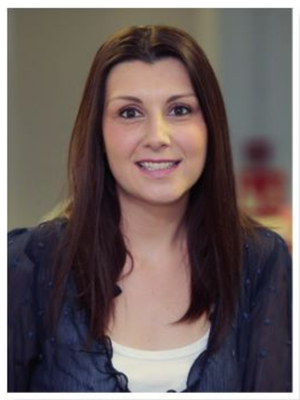
Read on to find out about the county's biggest must-visit wedding show



Here at County Wedding Magazines and Events HQ we're already looking to our next Signature Wedding Show at Mercedes-Benz World – our biggest event here to date, taking place over two days!

Our March event was a huge success, with couples and their friends and family coming from far and wide to visit the fair. Visitors were in awe of the setting, Mercedes-Benz World, which really set the tone for the event where nearlyweds-to-be got the chance to meet with more than 100 exhibitors.

From sampling cocktails to tasting ice cream, listening to live musicians and having pictures in *Back to the Future*'s DeLorean it was an exciting day for all who attended.

Looking to September and our next Signature Wedding Show at Mercedes-Benz World, I can assure you it is a must-visit for all those planning their big days.

One of the largest shows to be held in the South of England, the event will be taking place over two days, boasting more than 150 exhibitors! A huge range of specialists will be on hand to talk through your planning ideas and requirements, from venues to bridal boutiques, photographers to florists, cake makers and more.

On the day, couples and their entourages can enjoy fashion catwalks of the latest bridal, groom and mother-of-the-bride collections, partake in styling demonstrations and watch live entertainment, all whilst enjoying samples and tasters from our exhibitors. Refreshments are also available to purchase from the on-site café at Mercedes-Benz World as well.

Danielle x

Danielle Harvey, managing editor
County Wedding Magazines.

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Where... **Signature Wedding Show at Mercedes-Benz World, Brooklands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0SL**

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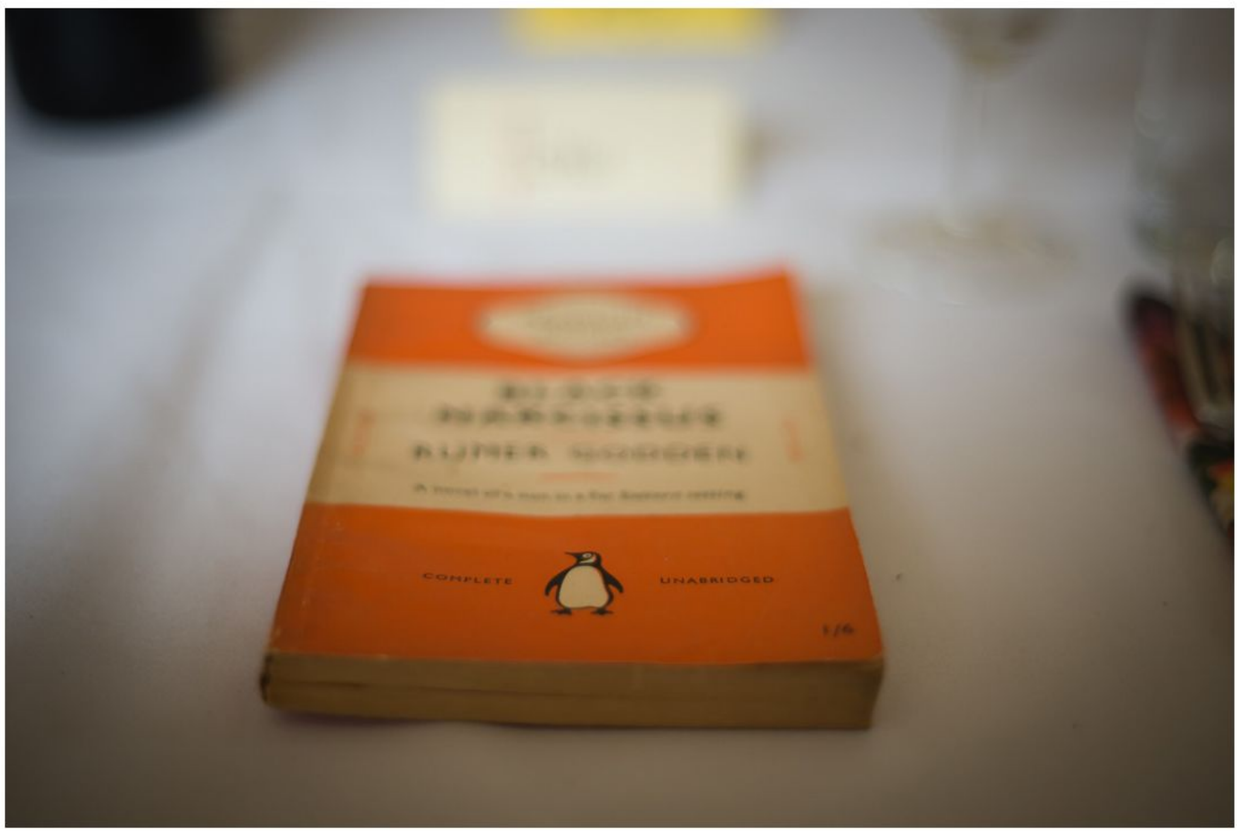
TALE AS OLD AS TIME

Laura and Paul exchanged vows at Brighton Town Hall on 23rd June, 2017, celebrating with friends and family the following day at Court Gardens Farm, Ditchling

Images courtesy of Photography By Bond



Laura and Paul met in 2014 through friends who insisted they would be great together. "You both like triathlons and reading," they said. The pair still love to tease their pals about their overly simplistic methods of match-making, but as Laura says, "We're married now, so they must have been on to something!"

Paul proposed two years later while on holiday in New Zealand. Laura says, "We were on Stewart Island, sat looking out at the ocean at dusk and watching little blue penguins hop around on the rocks, when Paul got down on one knee." The groom-to-be must have been thrilled to have achieved the element of the surprise since he'd spent a lot of time on tenterhooks over the preceding days watching Laura rifle through the bag where the ring was stashed looking for various items to unpack.

The couple wanted to get married locally, and having cycled extensively through the South Downs, they shared a love of Ditchling. Laura says: "It was nice to have the outdoor space for the blessing and the beautiful barn for the meal."

Join us now as the bride shares more details about the wedding day…

SETTING THE SCENE

Each guest was gifted a second-hand Penguin book in homage to the pair's proposal story, each with a personal note inside. Laura explains: "We spent the 18 months leading up to the wedding collecting them at car boots and charity shops, trying to match titles to people as much as possible."

The bride's parents grow wildflowers on their allotments, so she used these to create the centrepieces, which her mum tied with lace ribbons. Paul's stepmum created the rest of the floral arrangements, again using beautiful wildflowers, and also turned her hand to calligraphy for the place names.

With the barn boasting a natural beauty, Laura felt like it didn't need to be crowded with too much more décor. Her mum again stepped in to make some wonderful bunting, and the scene was set.

"Our friend drove me to the venue, and we spent the night on the farm in a converted ambulance called Babs!" – Laura

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jacqui from caterer Cooking In created a delicious tagine for guests to enjoy. "I liked the idea of sharing dishes because this had a social element to it," Laura explains. Cooking In came as the venue's recommended caterer, which was more than fine with the couple, "Jacqui was so efficient with her communication beforehand and actually helped us plan the timeline for the day," the bride says. "She was also very good at accommodating various dietary requirements. I don't know if we would have found anyone else as good by ourselves!"

DRESSED TO IMPRESS

The bride wore a Phase Eight dress, which she customised by adding a V-neck, small lace sleeves and a special bustle so she could hook up the skirt to walk around and dance. "I felt very much like myself in it," Laura remembers.

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Paul had a very specific vision for his wedding suit, which led to a long day in London, looking for something to match up. Laura says: "Just before we were about to call it a day, he spotted one in the window of Gieves & Hawkes on Savile Row. They had just one left in his size in the entire country! It was a done deal, and he looked awesome."

The groom's brothers performed the duties of best men and wore their own suits with complementing green ties. Laura chose not to have adult bridesmaids but instead bestowed the honour of flowergirl upon her cousin Ingrid and friend's daughter Scarlett. They both wore gorgeous green dresses from Debenhams.

TIME TO CELEBRATE

Lawn games kept guests entertained following the ceremony while the newlyweds were having their photographs taken. Later on, the evening celebrations were kicked off by live band Shade. "They covered Bruno Mars, Michael Jackson, Marvin Gaye, OutKast," the bride shares. "They were incredible – such great performers and so easy to communicate with too. Our guests loved them."

MEMORABLE MOMENT

Paul's sister, Rowan, performed the newlyweds' emotional blessing the day after the legal bit was done and dusted. During which, the couple planted a tree as a ceremonial act. Such a lovely idea! Except as Rowan began to describe the symbolism of the tree, representing the strong roots of marriage, a huge gust of wind tore through the ceremony area and blew it over! "It made for a good giggle and a great photo of us both cracking up, laughing," Laura remembers.

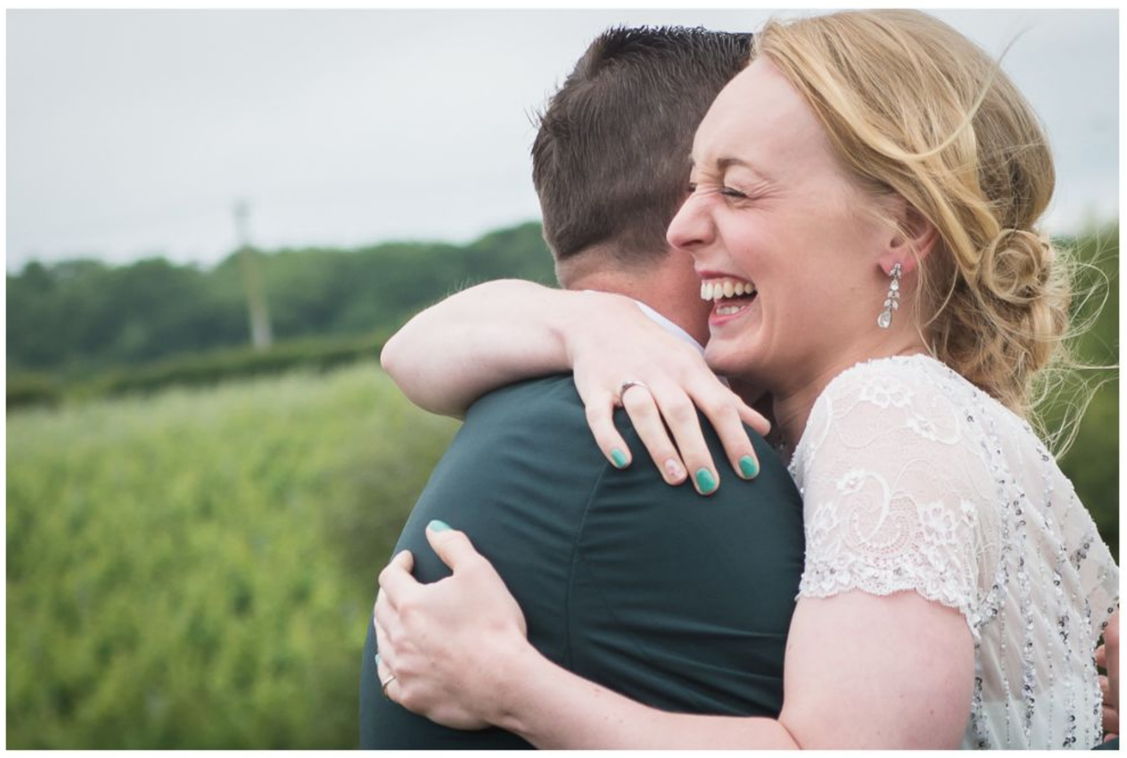
"Paul has a saying he always used to bring himself into the moment while travelling: 'This is what it's all about.' We said that to each other a few times to make sure were appreciating the day." – Laura

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

The newlyweds jetted off to Ecuador and the Galapagos for their honeymoon, a long-held dream for Paul. Laura learned to scuba-dive beforehand so that she could join her hubby in swimming with hammerhead and Galapagos sharks, manta rays and turtles. What a magical experience!

LAURA'S TOP TIP

"Choose a venue and suppliers to suit your style and personality. All of ours were really relaxed people, so that helped to make the planning process smooth. Claire, our photographer, was so good at just going with the flow. She was great on the day at making everyone feel at ease and comfortable. Having an engagement shoot was a lovely way to get used to having our pictures taken too."



LAURA AND PAUL'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK:

Venue, Court Gardens Farm, courtgardensfarm.co.uk | **Photographer**, Photography By Bond, photographybybond.co.uk | **Bride's dress**, Phase Eight, phase-eight.com | **Bride's accessories**, Beautifully Bespoke by Charlotte, facebook.com/BeautifullyBespokebyCharlotte | **Groom's suit**, Gieves & Hawkes, gievesandhawkes.com | **Stationery**, Toucan Print, toucanprint.co.uk | **Entertainment**, Alive Network, alivenetwork.com | **Catering**, Cooking In, cooking-in.com | **Bride's engagement ring**, Baroque Jewellery, baroquejewellery.com | **Wedding rings**, RTFJ, rtfj.co.uk

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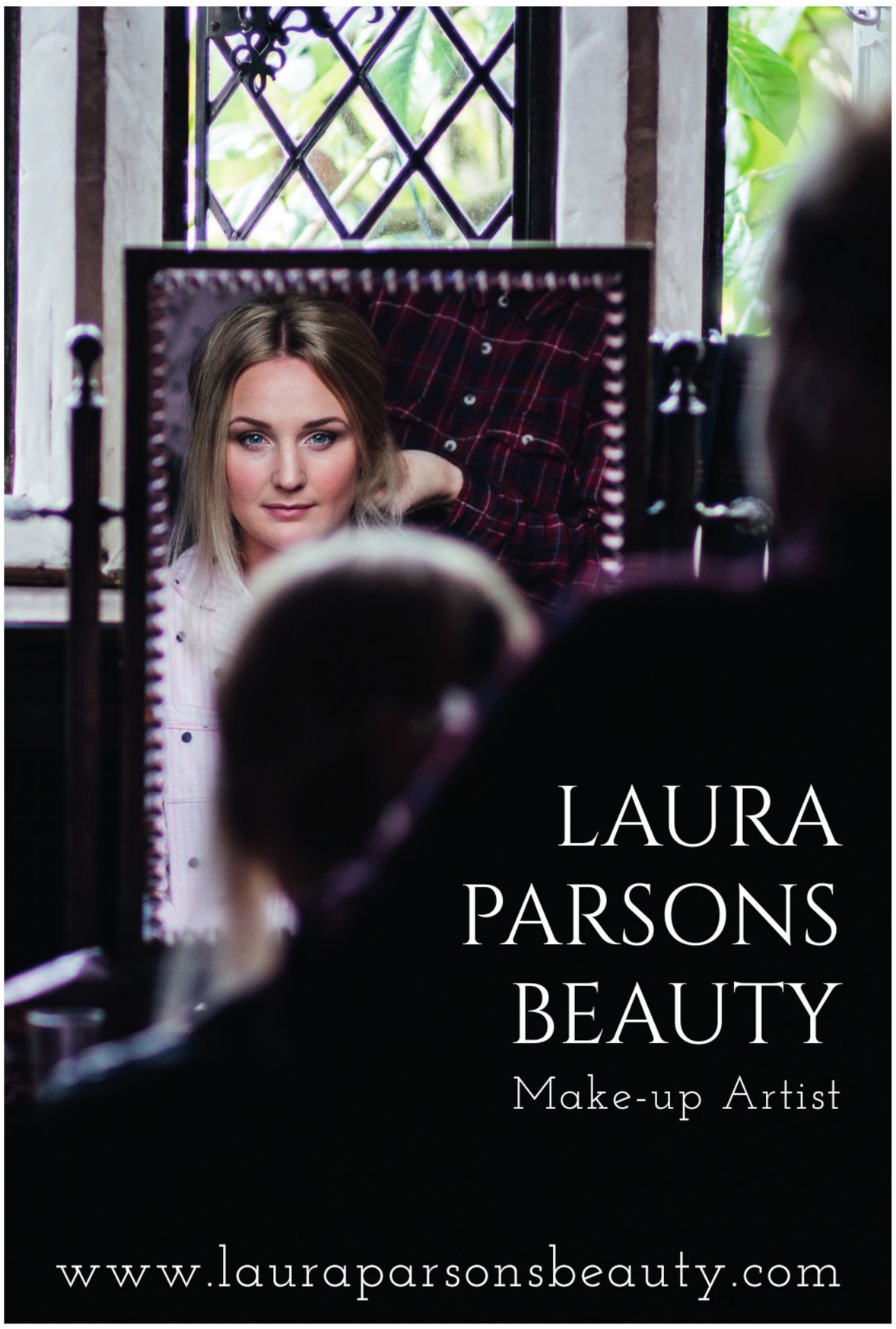
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MAKE A *wish*

Rosie and Rhys were childhood sweethearts. Rosie went to the girls' school and Rhys to the neighbouring boys'. Rosie remembers: "Rhys asked me out over MSN Messenger. Not particularly romantic, but that was the thing back in 2007!" Ah, so true! Rosie had no idea that Rhys had been harbouring a crush, but she did have the feeling that things would either go terribly wrong or last a very long time. "Now, here we are, more than 11 years later and married," she smiles.

The pair were on holiday in Mauritius, celebrating their 10th anniversary, when Rhys popped the question. On the way to dinner one evening, they passed a wishing tree. The idea of which is that you write your deepest wish on to a piece of paper and hang it from the branches. Rhys drew to a halt and suggested they take a look at some. "Why on earth would I want to read someone else's wishes?" Rosie wondered. As time went on, poor Rhys started to look a bit flustered. It materialised that, bless him, he'd popped out earlier in the day to write his own wish and pin it to the tree – "Will you marry me?" Except he couldn't find it! But where there's a will, there's a way. He wrote a new note, and when Rosie turned around, he was on one knee.

Here the bride shares more memories of their big day…

Rosie and Rhys were wed on 25th August, 2018, at Pangdean Old Barn with a romantic rustic theme

Images courtesy of Hayley Rose Photography

We always knew we wanted a barn wedding. Pangdean was only the second venue we saw, but when we walked in, we both got butterflies, instantly falling in love with its rustic yet sophisticated style.

To fit in with our pastel colour scheme, we opted for little bottles of rhubarb gin. Each had a note attached, saying "let the party beGIN."

The tables were all named after places or song titles that had a significant meaning to our relationship.

We chose fresh, rustic, large loose meadow blooms, light in colour with pops of pastels. The flowers surrounded lanterns and candles to form our centrepieces.

Fresh flowers also decorated our semi-naked four-tier wedding cake. The flavours were strawberry and champagne, chocolate, and carrot. It really fit the rustic theme, and the flowers tied it in with the rest of the décor.

The place names were pastel in colour, with guests' names penned in gold calligraphy. The fairylight motif mirrored the venue's ceiling, and they matched our invitations to keep the theme running through the day.

I arrived at the venue with my father in a Beauford 1930s-style open Tourer, which was absolutely gorgeous.

The food was incredible, and the portions were really generous! We started with a range of delicious canapés before moving on to a starter of maple-smoked chicken with a goat's cheese, pine nut and pancetta salad and a main course of pork belly with cider gravy. There were some great vegetarian options as well.

I wore *Nadia* by Sassi Holford. I found it at a sample sale, and it was only the third dress I tried on, but it felt perfect. It was actually the first thing I bought for the wedding.

The dress was quite simple at the front with a detailed low back, so I kept accessories to a minimum to show it off. I did have some forget-me-not lace blossom hair pins from Liberty In Love, which complemented the back perfectly.

Rhys and the groomsmen all wore black trousers, white shirts and a dark blue velvet suit jacket from Next, embossed with a light paisley pattern. The gents all wore pastel pink bow ties and matching wooden initialed cufflinks. Rhys stood out with his paisley patterned bow tie and shoes with a flash of matching blue velvet.

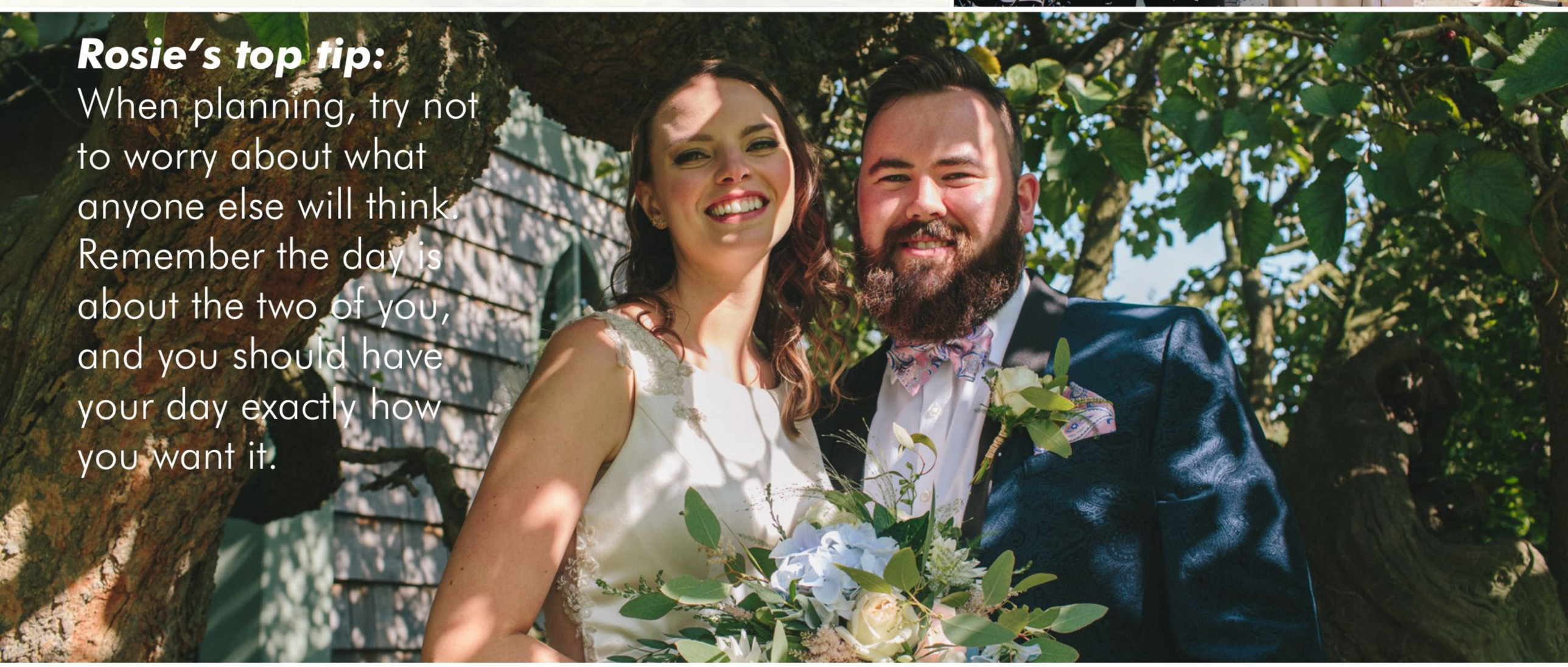
I based our whole colour scheme on my shoes! My something blue, they're called "Jool" from KG by Kurt Geiger.

The bridesmaids all wore dresses from TH&TH in varying styles to suit their shapes in a mixture of smoked orchid and smoked blush.

Our band, Dirty Weekend, was awesome and performed festival-style sets that had everyone up on the dancefloor.

During the day, we had go-karts and croquet out in the garden, which brought out the inner kids in our guests!

Walking into the ceremony and seeing all of our friends and family was truly special, and holding hands as Mr & Mrs as we walked out into the confetti was so much fun – we felt like celebrities!



Rosie's top tip:
When planning, try not to worry about what anyone else will think. Remember the day is about the two of you, and you should have your day exactly how you want it.

ROSIE & RHYS' LITTLE WHITE BOOK:

Venue, Pangdean Old Barn, pangdean.com | **Photography,** Hayley Rose Photography, hayleyrosephotography.co.uk | **Bride's dress**, Sassi Holford, sassiholford.com | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, TH&TH, thandth.com | **Make-up artist**, Laura Parsons Beauty, lauraparsonsbeauty.com | **Hair stylist**, Leanne Clark Hair Design, facebook.com/Leanne-Clark-Hair-Design-141024866462978 | **Flowers**, Chirpee Flowers, chirpee.net | **Cake**, Gosh Patisserie, goshpatisserie.co.uk | **Transport**, Finest Wedding Cars, finestweddingcars.co.uk

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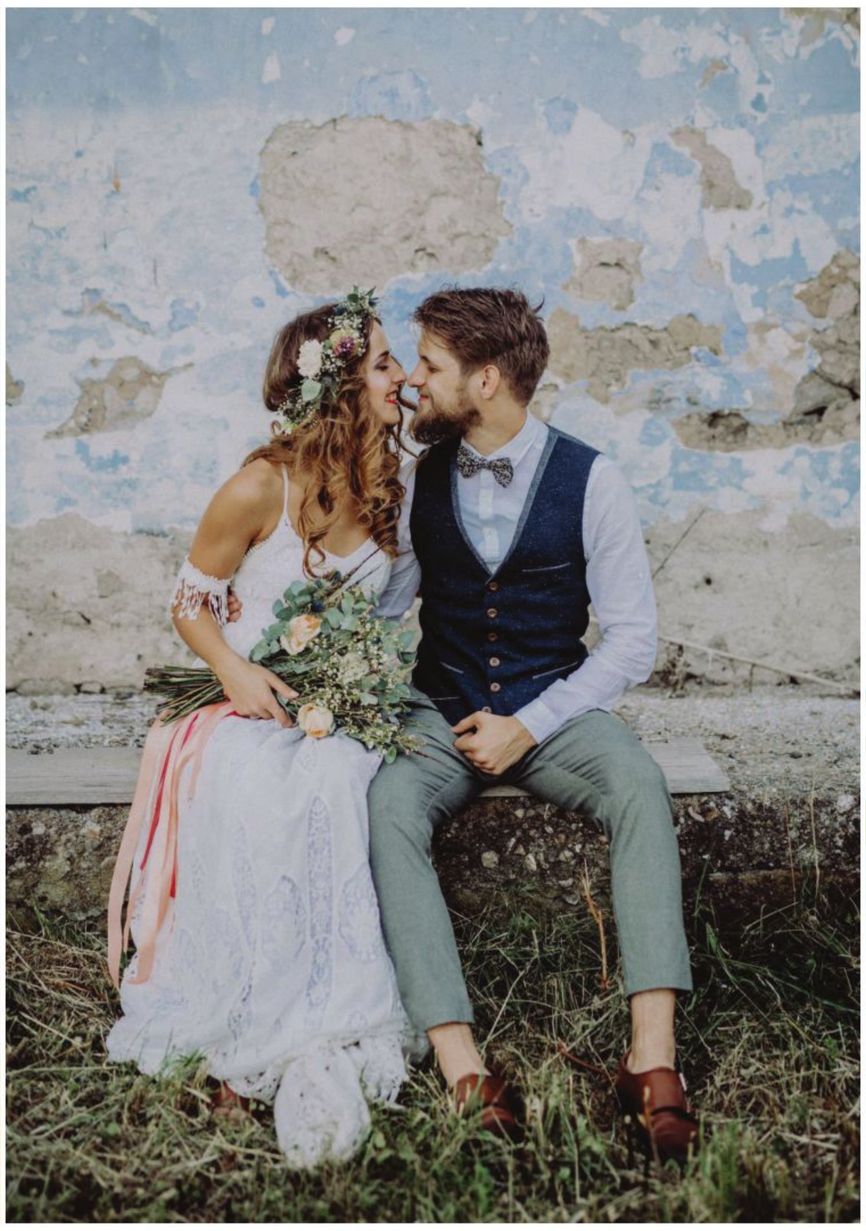

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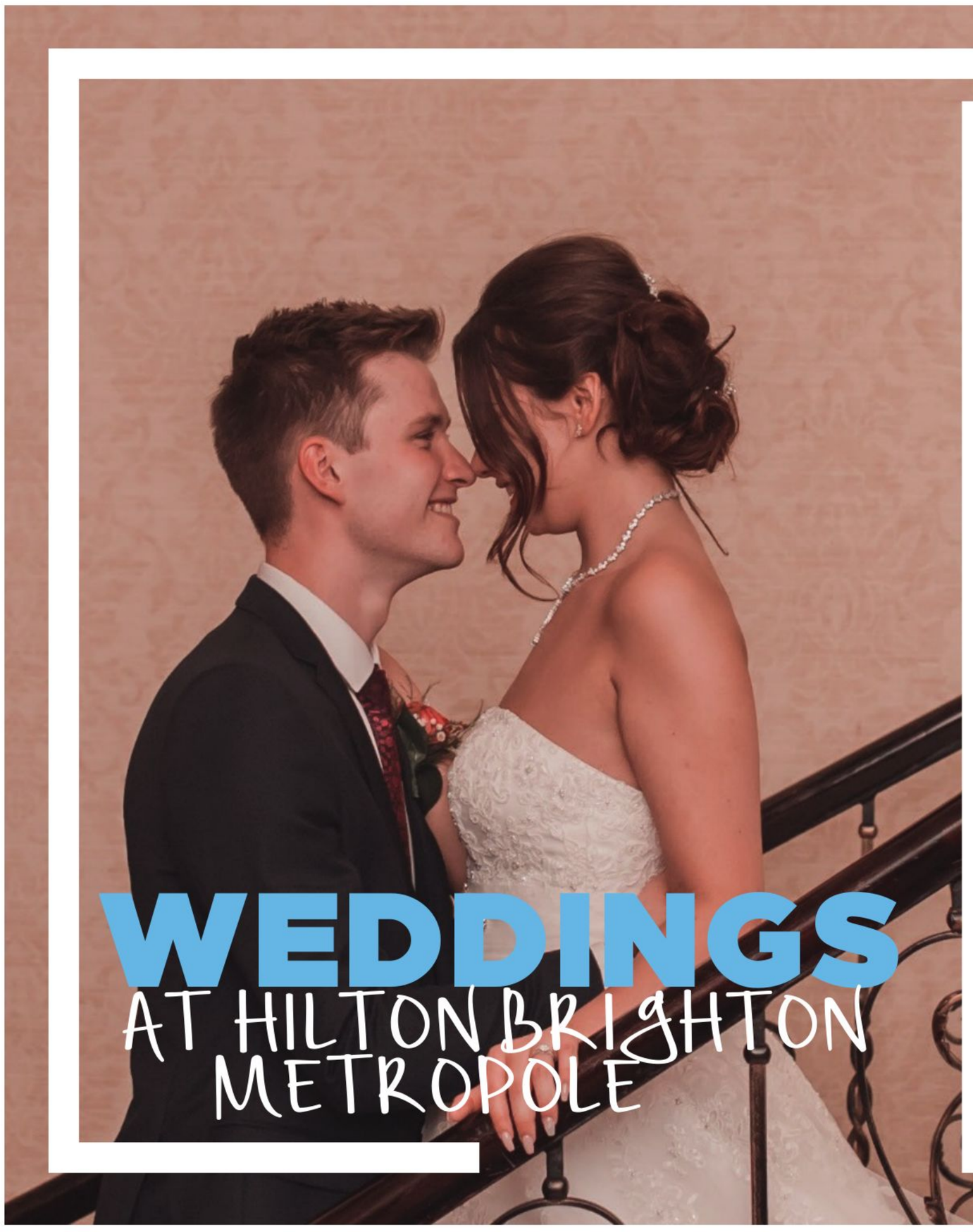

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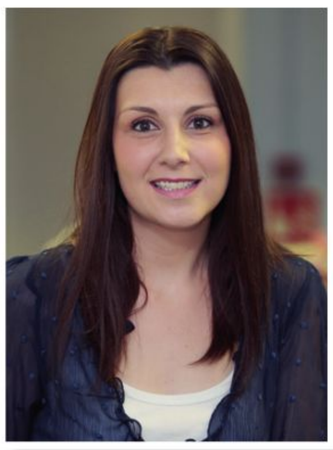
Read on to find out about the county's biggest must-visit wedding show



You've said 'yes' to the love of your life – and the beautiful ring – and now you'll both be in full wedding planning mode. However, for some this can be an extremely daunting task. To help you organise the all-important big day, then I have to simply point you in the direction of our County Wedding Events Signature Wedding Show at Ascot Racecourse.

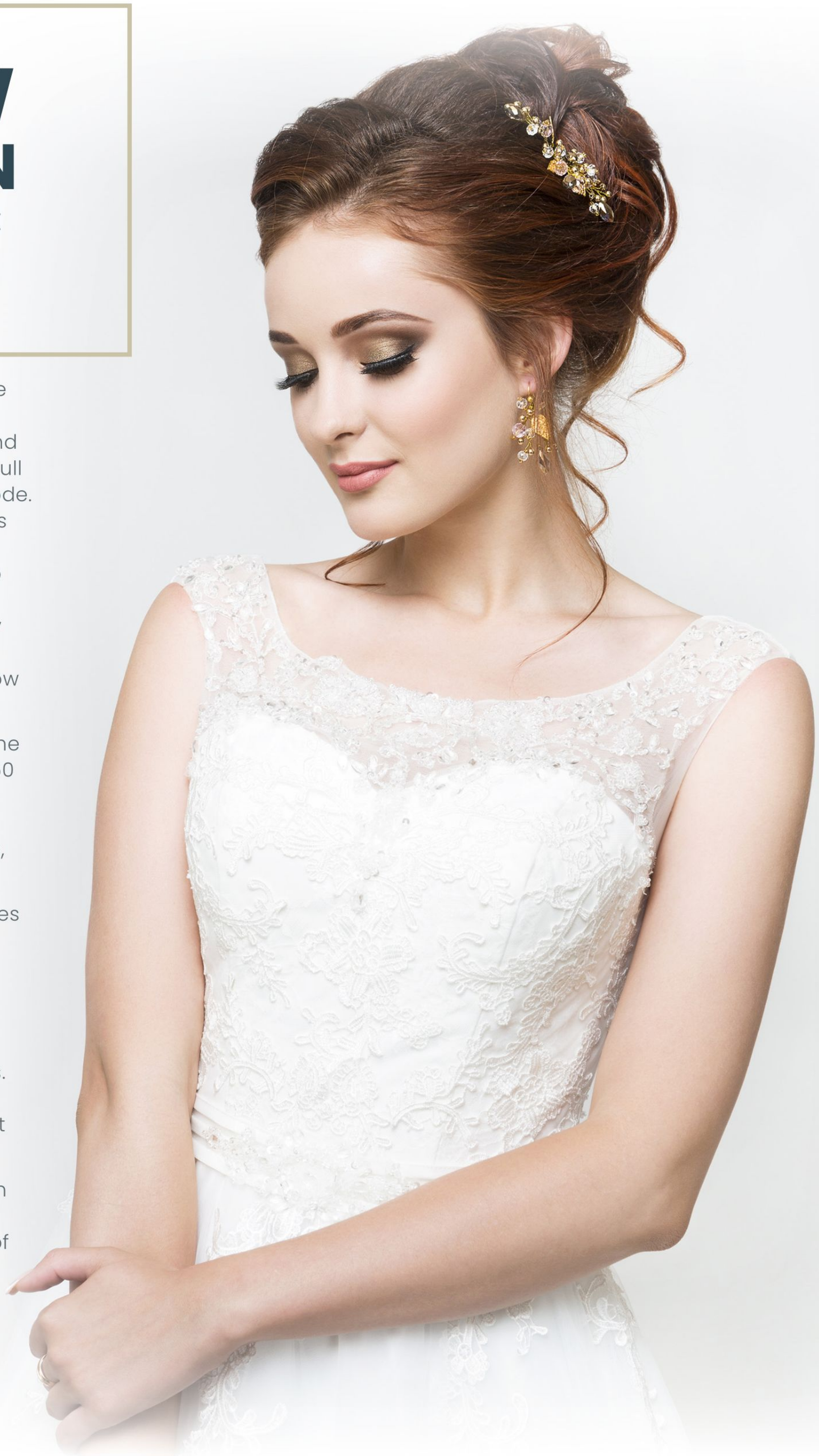
One of the largest shows to be held in the South of England boasting more than 150 exhibitors, there will be a huge range of specialists attending including venues, bridal boutiques, photographers, florists, cake makers and more.

On the day, couples and their entourages can enjoy fashion catwalks of the latest bridal, groom and mother-of-the-bride collections, partake in styling demonstrations and watch live entertainment, all whilst enjoying samples and tasters from our exhibitors. Refreshments are also available to purchase from the on-site café at Ascot Racecourse as well.

What's more, by attending our exhibition couples will benefit from free entry, will receive a goody bag including a copy of a County Wedding Magazine as well as be entered into a competition to win a honeymoon to a luxurious destination.

Danielle x

Danielle Harvey, managing editor
County Wedding Magazines.



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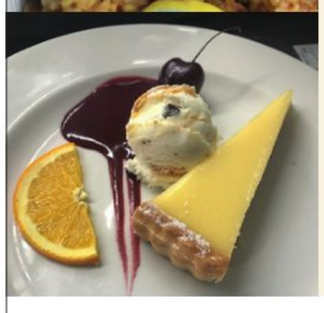

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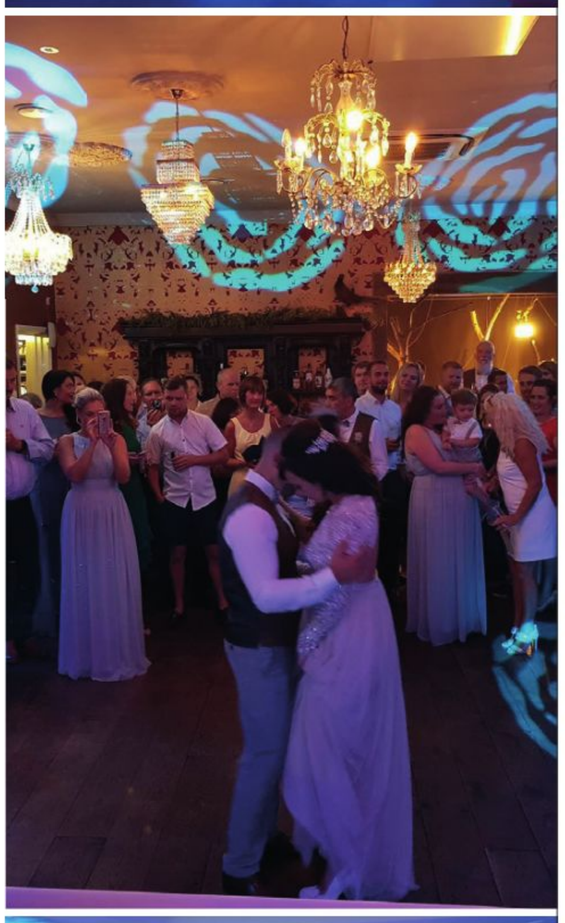

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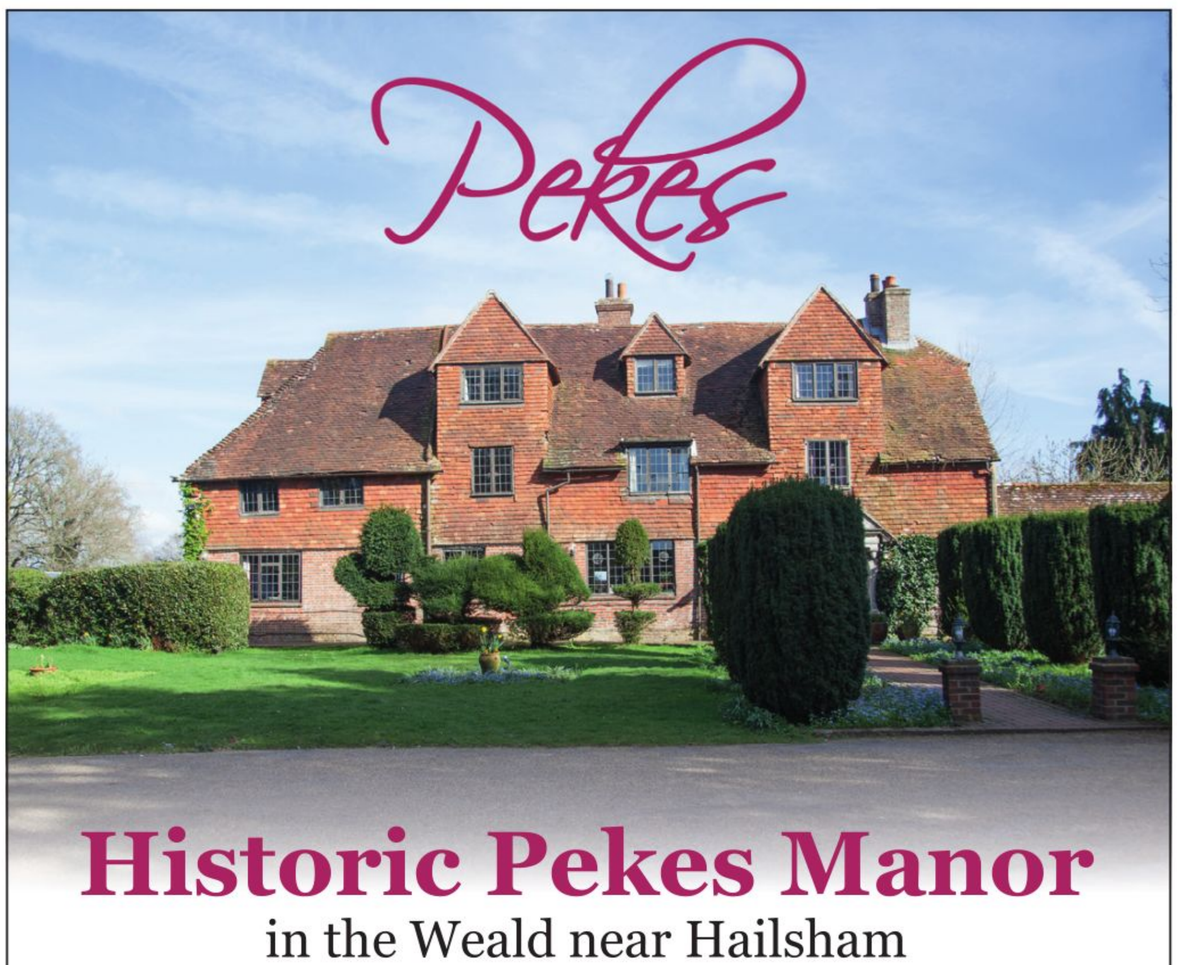

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One Fine Day

Tristan and Lyndsey exchanged vows at Hellingly Church before heading to Chilley Farm Barn for rustic-chic celebrations filled with sunflowers and charm

Images courtesy of N Davies Photography

Tristan and Lyndsey met while playing hockey for their club in Hailsham. Having been friends for many years, they started dating in 2015. Just two short years later, Tristan asked Lyndsey to be his wife.

After a lovely afternoon spent playing tennis and enjoying afternoon tea, the groom-to-be started to hatch a plan. Trying to find a romantic spot along the Eastbourne coast where he could drop to one knee and pop the all-important question, he settled on a spot near Holywell Beach, nicknamed Sugar Mountain. Lyndsey says, "He tried to take one of the rings I had on already with the intention to swap it for the engagement ring, but I was being a pain and not playing along!" So in the end, a simple proposal was made. "So do you want to get married then?!" Tristan asked.

Planning began, and the date was set for 18th August, 2018. Here we're joined by Lyndsey, who tells us more about their big day…

We always had the intention of picking a barn as Tristan has a farming background and I have a love for the rustic. Chilley Farm Barn is an intimate setting with lots of different little areas for activities, close to the church.

The table plan was homemade from a rustic wooden tray and bakers twine. I used grey card and calligraphed guests' names in white. I'm now offering my calligraphy skills to other brides too.

Half of the centrepieces were a trio of vintage aqua-coloured glass bottles sitting on a walnut log slice. The other half were galvanised mini milk churns. I made the favours with a friend. They were homemade candles in little jam jars, with lavender and rosemary from the garden.

To complement Tristan's farming background, we opted for a three-tier white cake surrounded by grass, topped with the bride and groom sitting on a John Deere green tractor, with sheep holding up one of their tiers. Even our pet sheep, Nigel, made a blinged-up appearance!

The venue was also dotted with multiple chalkboards, rustic hearts, twig garlands, rustic hessian and lace bunting and photo bunting.

The groom wore a navy suit with a grey tweed waistcoat and cream tie with rose buttonhole. His shoes were tan. The groomsmen wore the same, except with silver grey ties and smaller buttonholes.

I always wanted navy for the bridesmaids. It's a classic colour and a staple in my wardrobe. So I bought some lace dresses with pleated skirting in the hue as ex-BHS stock.

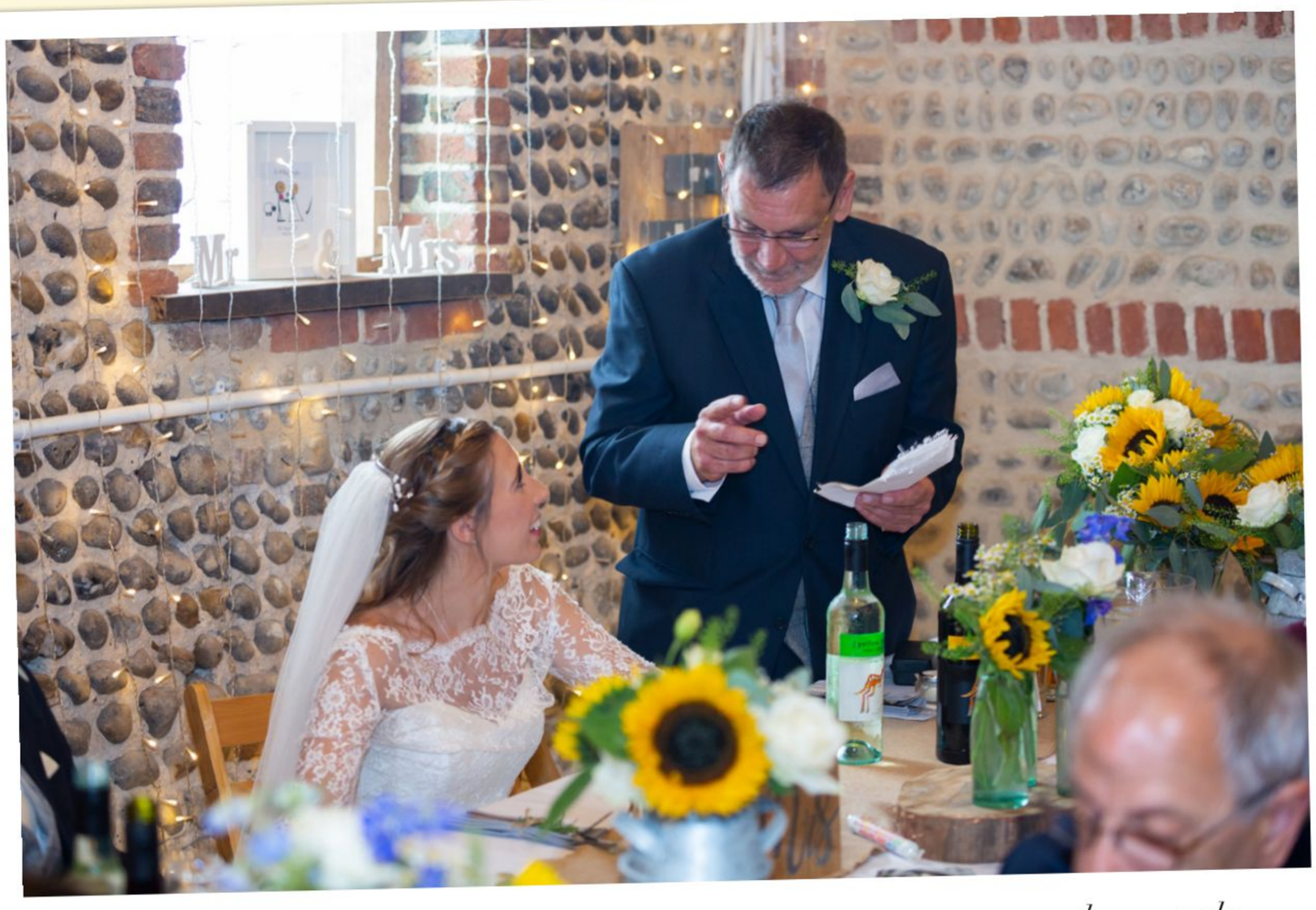
I wore Fleur *by Naomi Neoh. It originally had full-length sleeves, which I had altered to suit the August weather. From the word go, I knew I had to incorporate lace into the dress. So the illusion jacket was perfect, completing the floating A-line silhouette.*

I accessorised my dress with plain satin round heels with a hidden sixpence, a rainbow club lace elbow-length veil and Pandora Elegance earrings and necklace.

The journey to the venue was magical. It all became real at that point – we were finally getting married. Getting out of the car in front of everyone was my happiest moment and my favourite photograph.

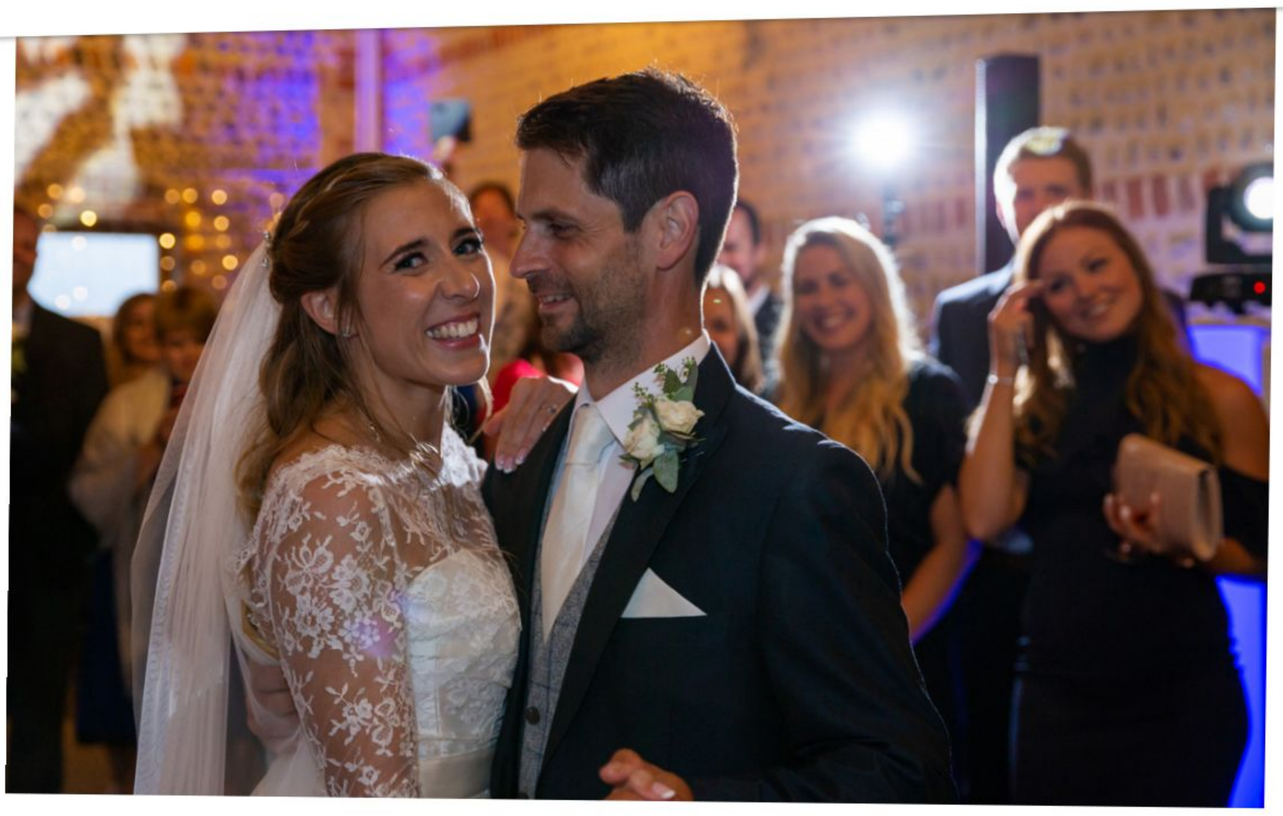
The girls wore pewter grey shoes, although they were swiftly removed at the reception and replaced with hand-decorated white flip-flops!

All the tables had an eclectic collection of after-dinner games, which everyone loved. It took months of collecting from eBay and charity shops. There were lawn games outside, including sack races, skittles and croquet, and the children loved these.



Having my dad at the wedding and giving me away meant more than words could say. I remember walking around, introducing everyone to him as a super-proud daughter. His speech and Tristan's were everything I could have hoped for. They both made me feel extremely special and loved.

Our mini-moon was really chilled. We stayed in two working farm B&Bs in Cornwall and Dorset over a week and explored lots of places, such as Cheddar Gorge, Geevor Tin Mine, and we even went fossil hunting.



We had a lovely DJ, DJ Dunc, who worked with us to set up a playlist of our choice, including acoustic music, old classics and our first dance, How Would You Feel *by Ed Sheeran. He played requests for our guests into the evening, and the atmosphere of the barn was transformed by the amazing lighting. Everyone was up dancing all night.*

The whole day was over like a flash, and at the end, I remember putting on a sad face to everyone I saw and repeating "can I do the whole day again?"

TRISTAN AND LYNDSEY'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK:

Venue, Chilly Farm Barn, chilleyfarmshop.com | **Photographer**, N Davies Photography, ndaviesphotography.co.uk | **Bride's dress**, Brides Dress Revisited, bridesdressrevisited.com | **Alterations**, Jennie West Seamstress, facebook.com/jenniewestseamstress | **Hair and make-up**, Katie Bishop Make Up, katebishopmakeup.com | **Groom's suit**, Dickies Suit Hire, dickies-suit-hire.co.uk | **Cake**, The Incredible Cake Company, theincrediblecakecompany.co.uk | **Flowers**, Florist On The Farm, floristonthefarm.co.uk | **Transport**, Finest Wedding Cars, finestweddingcars.co.uk | **Stationery**, Lyndsey's Lettering, facebook.com/lyndseyslettering | **Entertainment**, Synthesize Events, facebook.com/SynthesizeEvents | **Catering, bar and wedding planning**, Emma Turner Weddings, emmaturnerweddings.co.uk | **Furniture and crockery hire**, Speedwell Catering hire, speedwellcateringhire.co.uk | **Hog roast and buffet**, Midsussex Hog Roast, midsussexhogroast.co.uk | **Ice cream**, Hitcham Dairy Ice Cream, hitchamdairyicecream.com

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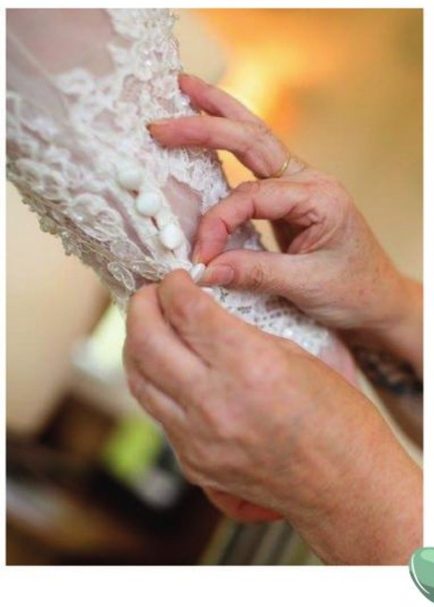

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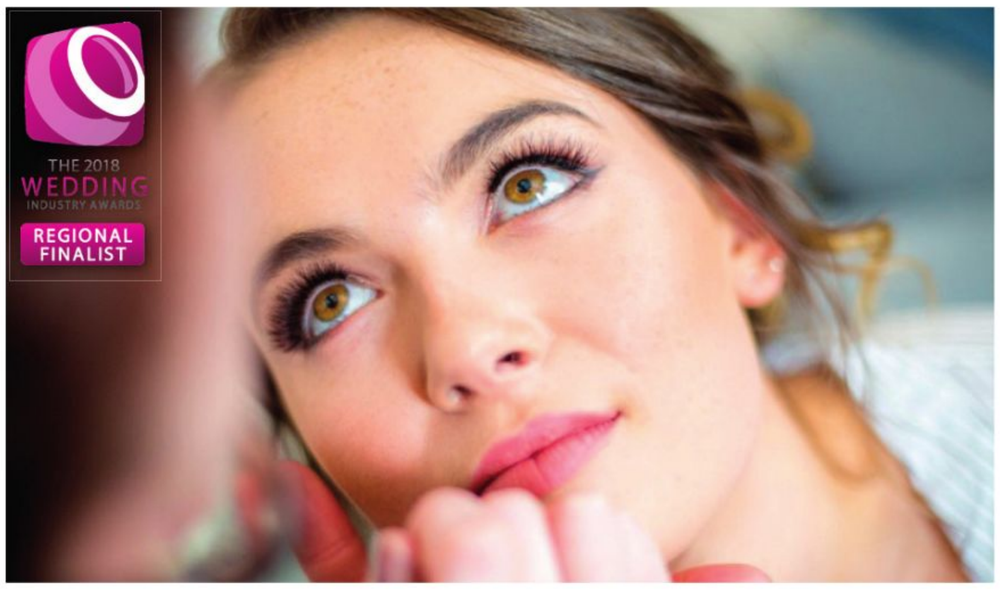
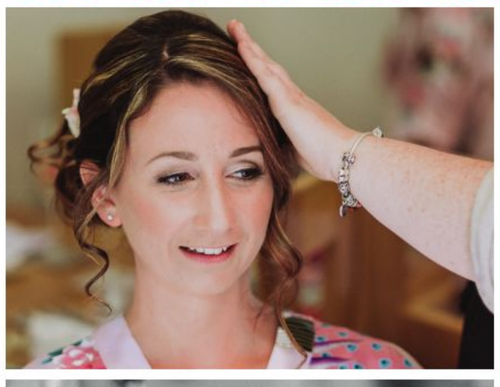
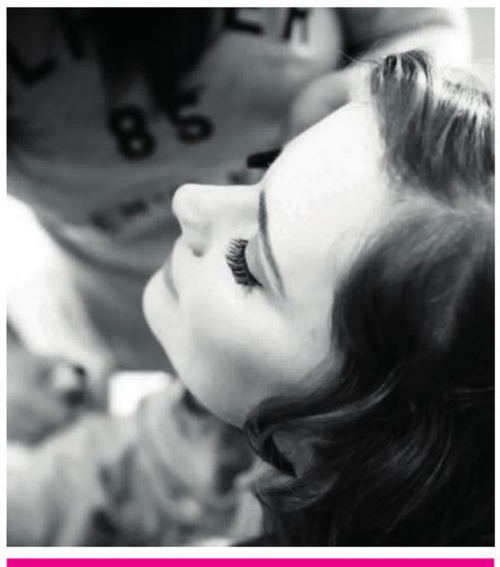
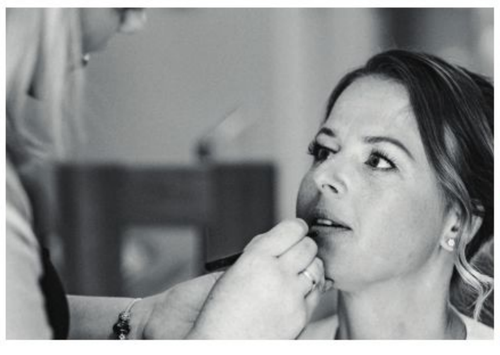


KATE BISHOP

HAIR & MAKE-UP ARTIST







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MEANT TO BE

The drama of the stunning and historic Wiston House, adorned in a pink and purple palette, provided the backdrop for Louise and Dan's wedding day

Images courtesy of Photography by Paloma

Louise and Dan's paths crossed many times before they started dating in 2016. In fact, one could say that fate had been doing its damnedest to bring them together. The pair, being keen volleyball players, had met through matches and tournaments. Later, they met again when they found themselves on the same team for a 100km walk in 2015, and the spark began to appear while they spent the two days laughing and joking with one another. There were many more meetings after that before they became a couple the following year.

In October 2017, Dan surprised Louise with a trip to Rye. She says, "I didn't know anything about it until he told me on the morning to pack a bag for a few days!" During their stay, they rented some bikes and rode out into the countryside, coming to a halt alongside a beautiful lake. It was there that Dan proposed with his grandmother's engagement ring. "It was just perfect," Louise tells us.

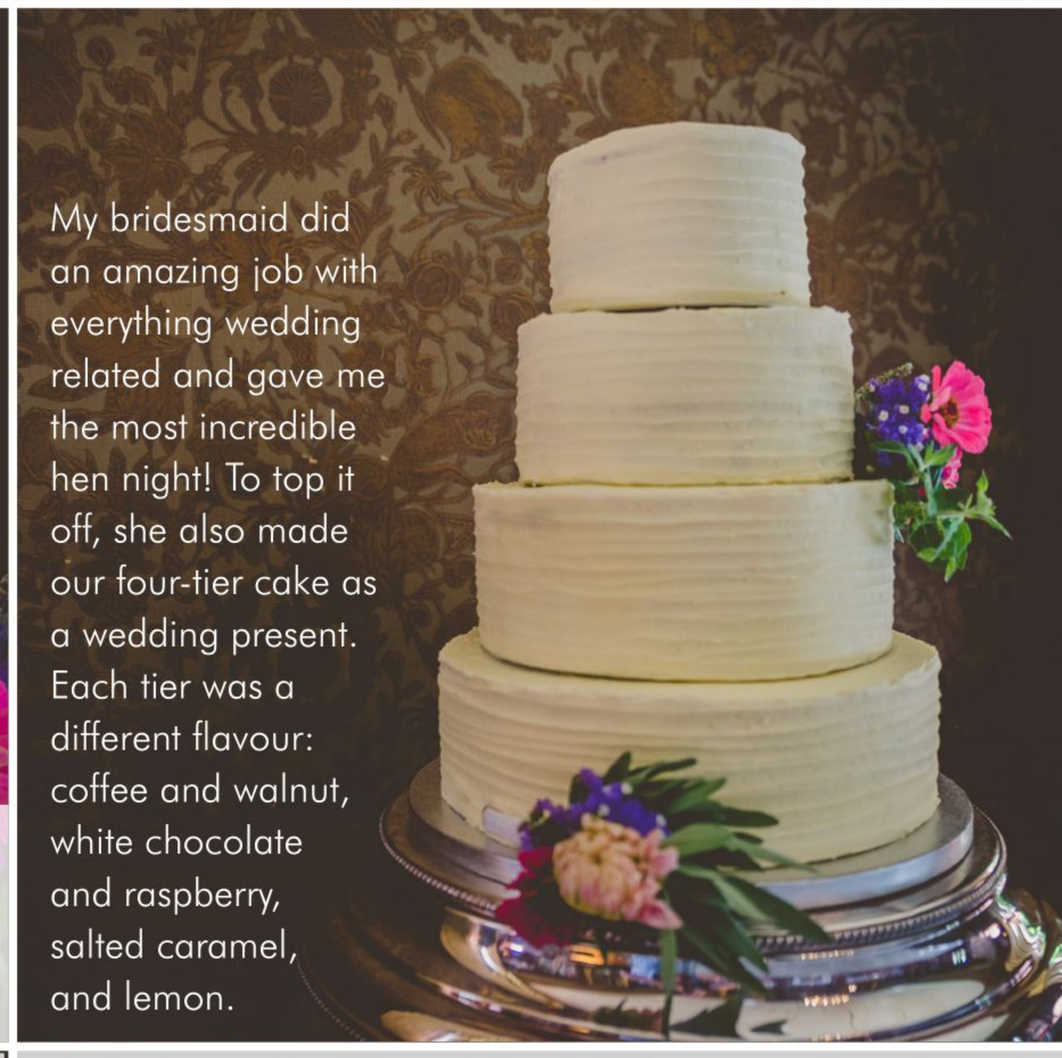
Here the bride and groom share more memories of 15th September, 2018, their gorgeous wedding day…

We viewed so many lovely wedding venues but fell in love with Wiston House from the moment we saw it. It's such a dramatic building, and the high, vaulted ceiling and massive fireplace of the Great Hall are stunning. The vast gardens are beautiful, and we were lucky to have a hot sunny day so that we could make the most of them.

Along with our flowers, which were placed into three glass, hessian-wrapped jars for each table, we also had photographs of us at the corresponding age to the table number.

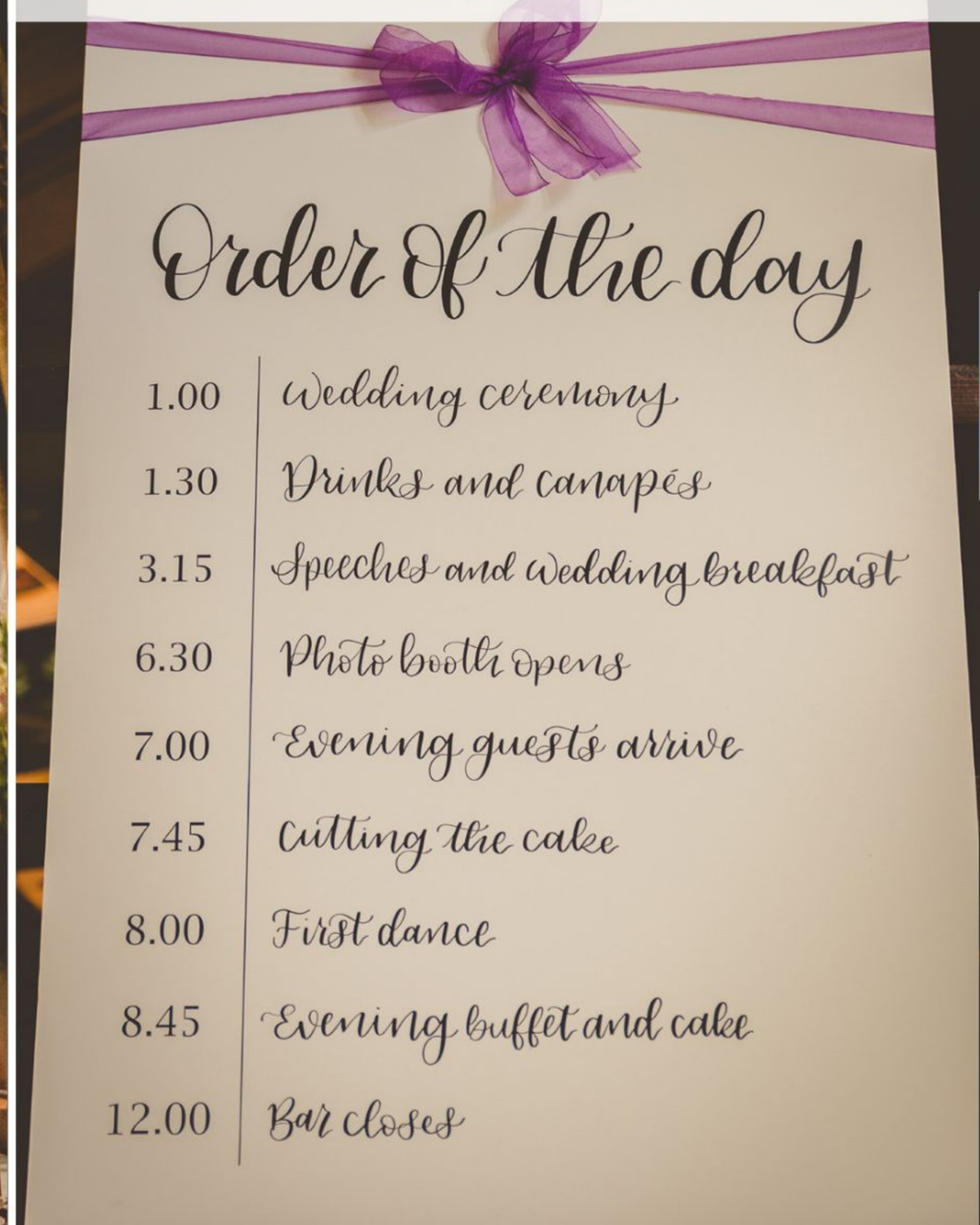
Our blooms were grown on Sussex Flower Farm, which is on the same estate as Wiston House. We chose the colour theme, then shortly before the wedding visited the farm to choose the flowers we wanted to incorporate. They were then given to our florist to arrange and bring to the venue on the day.

My bridesmaid did an amazing job with everything wedding related and gave me the most incredible hen night! To top it off, she also made our four-tier cake as a wedding present. Each tier was a different flavour: coffee and walnut, white chocolate and raspberry, salted caramel, and lemon.



We were given so many wonderful food options by the venue, and the dishes we chose were amazing. People are still telling us even now how delicious the wedding breakfast was!

Our invitations, table plan, place names and menus were all beautifully calligraphed by our friend Ellie. They were simply designed on a white card and finished with purple ribbon to match the colour theme.



I wore *Sansa* by Sofia Bianca with a one-tier veil, edged in lace detail, by Richard Designs. I was expecting to choose a slim-fit style, but as soon as I tried on my dress, I had that moment of knowing it was *the one*!

I accessorised with simple diamond earrings and a necklace lent to me by my Nannie, which was my something borrowed.

Our adult bridesmaid, Paris, wore a True Bride dress in deep purple. It was floor length with detailing on the shoulders. Our flowergirl wore a Monsoon dress, Delilah, with flower detail matching our palette.

Dan wore a Ted Baker suit from Moss Bros, with a lovely cream shirt from Woodies in Brighton's Lanes. The buttonholes were created by our florist, Nell.

We had a live band in the evening, a Brighton outfit called The Revival, who were absolutely brilliant. The dancefloor was full for the most of the night, and they performed our first dance song beautifully! We also had a photo booth, which we could tell was popular from the album!

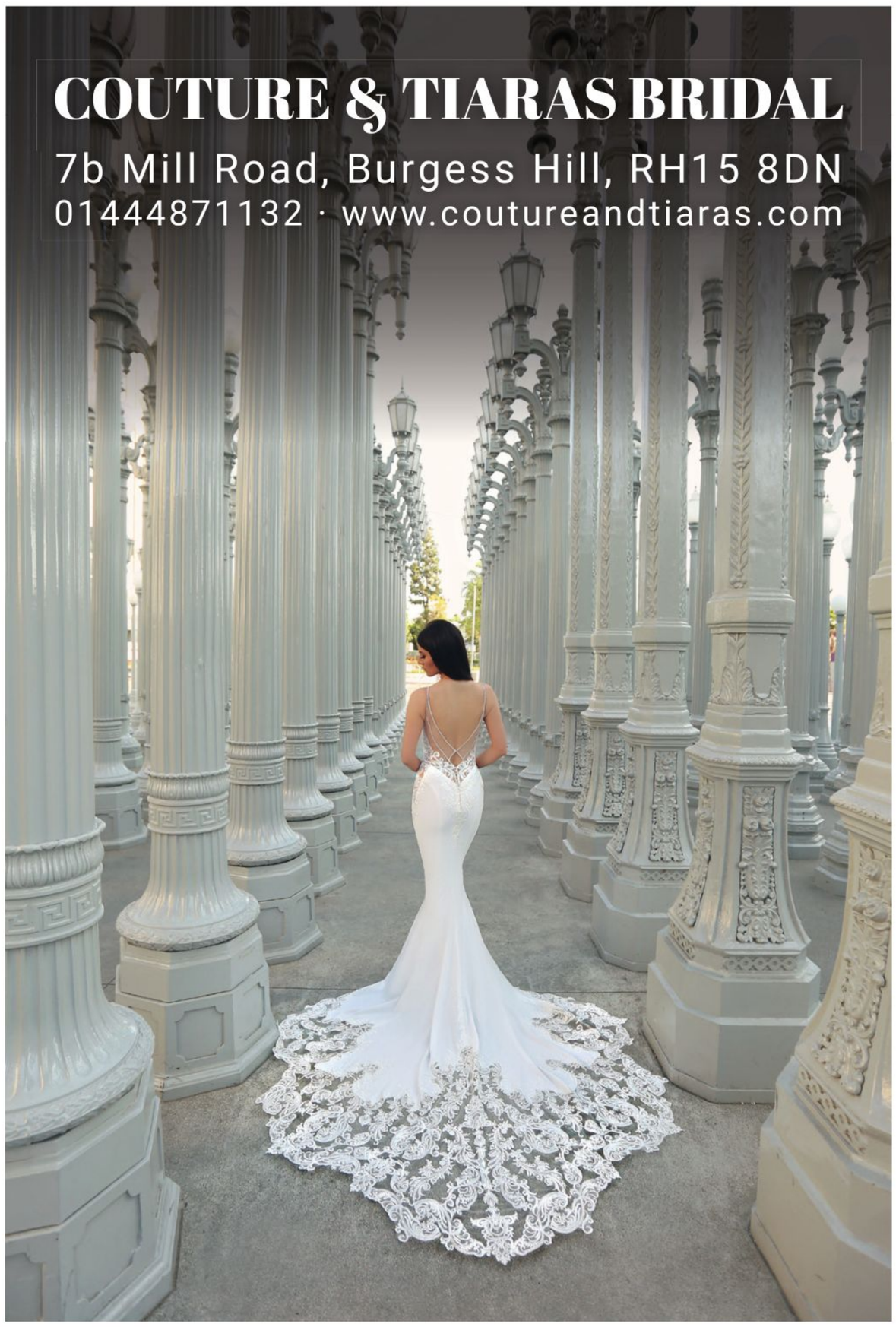
My one-year-old nephew had been practicing dancing ready for the evening. As soon as the band started playing our first dance song, *You Look Wonderful Tonight*, he joined me and Louise on the dancefloor and stole the show. We look forward to reminding him of this in years to come!

Louise & Dan's top tip: Spend some time with each other during the day. With both of us greeting and entertaining guests, we spent a lot of time apart but managed to grab 10 minutes alone in the gardens. It was lovely to take time together to enjoy our day, talk and take it all in.

I'd always wanted to experience over-water bungalows. The opportunity to see beautiful beaches, azure waters and five-star accommodation rarely comes along, and if you can't spoil yourself on your honeymoon, when can you?! Dan found the perfect place in the Maldives.

LOUISE AND DAN'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK:

Venue, Wiston House, wistonhouse.co.uk | **Photographer,** Photography by Paloma, photographybypaloma.co.uk | **Bride's dress**, Sofia Bianca by Ronald Joyce, ronaldjoyce.com | **Hair stylist**, Charis Conley, 07429 060667 | **Make-up artist**, Sarah Williams, williamss76@live.co.uk | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, Couture and Tiaras Bridal Shop, coutureandtiaras.com | **Flowergirl dress**, Monsoon, uk.monsoon.co.uk | **Groom's shirt**, Woodies Brighton, 01273 776777 | **Groom and groomsmen's suits**, Moss Bros, moss.co.uk | **Flowers**, Nell's Flowers, nellsflowers.co.uk | Sussex Flower Farm, sussexflowerfarm.co.uk | **Entertainment**, The Revival Band, the-revival-band.com | **Photo booth**, My Photo Booth Experience, myphotoboothexperience.co.uk



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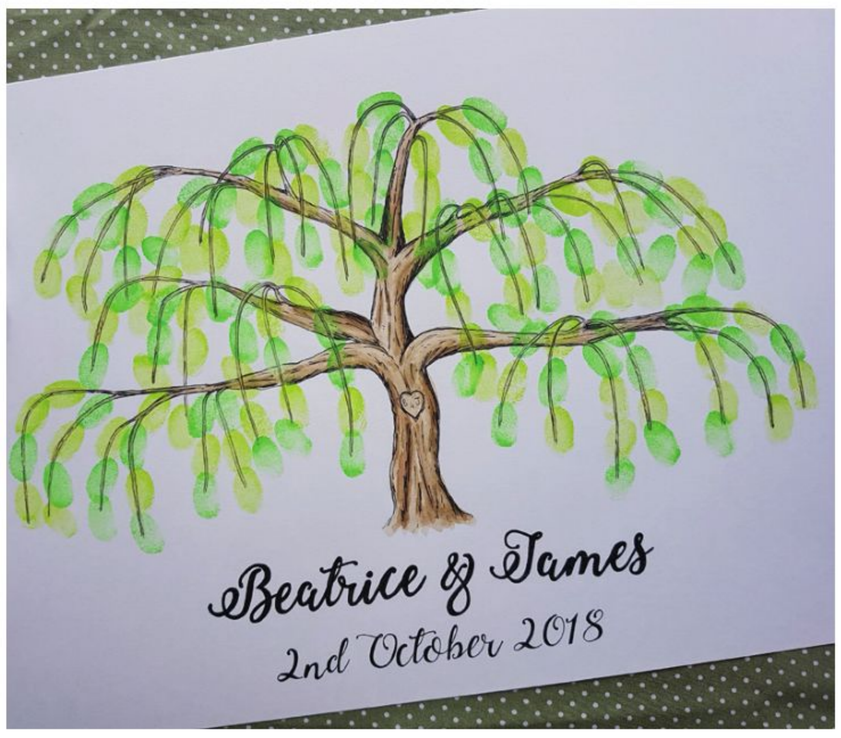

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Modern Tinsel Town glamour comes to the heart of the English countryside

Images courtesy of FionaMillsArt Photography

HOLLYWOOD, Sussex

Balcombe Place was thrilled to throw open its doors to this incredible group of suppliers, and we can certainly understand why! The rich colours of the flowers in deepest darkest red to silvery fuchsia and high-intensity make-up coupled with elegant bridal gowns were all a perfect fit for the setting.

Shoot organiser Kimberley, of Kimberley Louise Makeup, explains: "My inspiration came from the sirens of the 1950s, when sexiness, sass and confidence oozed out with every pose."

The venue brought its own character to the shoot. With its huge marble fireplace, wood-panelled walls and gold-embellished wallpaper, each room offered something different.

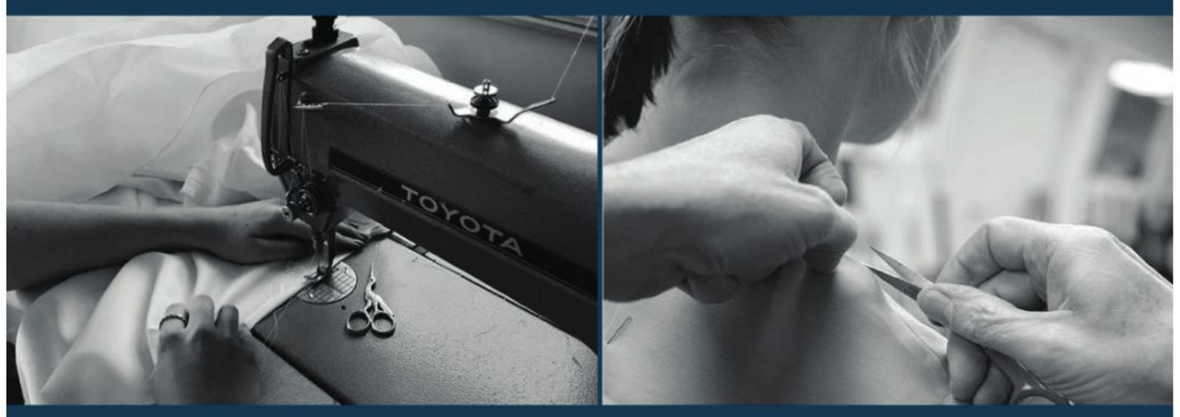
We don't know about you, but we're feeling inspired and red carpet-ready.

THE TALENTED SUPPLIERS:

Venue, Balcombe Place, balcombeplace.com | **Photographer**, FionaMillsArt Photography, fionamillsart.com | **Make-up artist**, Kimberley Louise Makeup, kimberleylmakeup.com | **Hair stylist**, Kent Bridal Hair, kentbridalhair.com | **Venue stylist**, Best Day Ever Wedding Planning, bestdayeverweddingplanning.co.uk | **Florist**, Cabbage White Flowers, cabbagewhiteflowers.co.uk | **Bridal gowns**, Opulence and Grace, opulenceandgracebridal.co.uk | **Bridal accessories**, Lace and Favour, laceandfavour.com | **Table linen**, Coordination Catering Hire, co-ordination.net

Bleu Pearce

Designer and Seamstress



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ALL IN THE *detail*

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A IS FOR ALTERATIONS

You want to feel a million bucks on your big day, and having a dress that fits you like a glove is a surefire way to achieve it. Perhaps you want to make a small design tweak to make it truly you or even add your own sentimental touch such as a swatch of lace from your mother's wedding gown. You'll need an experienced seamstress, so check out bleupearce.com

B IS FOR BACKDROPS

Whether it be a flower wall, fairylit drapes or a boho macramé hanging, backdrops are a great highlight for the top table or a fun focal point for guests to pose in front of for the wedding paparazzi like celebs on the red carpet.

See ashdownevents.co.uk

C IS FOR CENTREPIECES

Centrepieces are one of the key elements of venue styling. They present the opportunity to pull your theme together and bring your reception space to life. Use log slices and flower-filled jam jars for a rustic feel or tall martini glasses on mirrored plates for a glamorous approach. Your theme, your way!

Have a look at butterfliesandbows.co.uk

E IS FOR ELEGANCE

Venue styling sounds like a daunting prospect, but it can be anything from simple yet effective touches to a full-scale bold and adventurous theme. Don't be afraid to seek professional help! Talk to the experts at To Have and To Hire, tohaveandtohireweddings.com

D IS FOR DRAPING

Transform your venue from the everyday to the incredible with some strategic draping. Stylish swags of silk, voile, velour or organza with some subtle mood lighting can create the setting of your dreams. It can also have a practical purpose to separate your ceremony and reception spaces.

Chat to the experts in draping at fabricate-decor.co.uk

F IS FOR FLOWER ARCH

Whether you view the ceremonial arch as a representation of the home you'll make together or simply a great focal point for the vows, arches and backdrops are starting to grow in popularity in the UK. Personalise them to represent you as couple and fit any theme.

Speak to the experts at arabellafloral.com about creating your own.

G IS FOR GAMES

Garden games – the stalwart of a summer wedding. They provide hours of fun for children and adults alike without breaking the bank adding a chic vintage twist to your nuptials.

Have a look at the fab range available at hireyourday.co.uk

H IS FOR HARP

What could be more relaxing than the sound of a harp? The beautiful tones of this instrument complement a wedding day perfectly, creating a wonderful atmosphere – whether it be during the ceremony or the reception drinks.

Head over to harpmusic.co.uk to find out what Margaret can bring to your nuptials.

I IS FOR ICING

The big-day bake is the centrepiece of the reception space and a showstopping work of art.

The days of fruit or sponge are well and truly over, as bakers gather momentum in creative flavouring. Uma Bakes Cakes, for example, offers chocolate truffle, s'mores, strawberry cream cheese, rose buttercream, banana and chocolate orange, to name only a select few.

Check out @umabakescakes

J IS FOR JEWELLERY

Accessories can make an outfit, and your wedding day look is no different. Many brides choose to wear an item of jewellery with sentimental value, which can often play a part in the something borrowed, blue, old, new. Nearlyweds often exchange jewellery gifts on the morning of the wedding.

Check out aurumjewellers.com for wedding day jewellery to hold some new memories.

K IS FOR KEEPSAKE

Flowers are such a key part of the wedding day and instrumental in conveying your theme. It's sad to think they can't last forever…or can they? M&M Taste of Harmony creates intricately handmade beaded bouquets for the bride and bridesmaids that can be admired for years to come. Check out tasteofharmony.co.uk

L IS FOR LETTERS

The popularity of illuminated letters is still booming, and there are styles to fit any theme, from rustic to glam.

Check out lumimix.co.uk

M IS FOR MOBILE BAR

If your venue doesn't include a licensed bar, you'll be delighted to hear that the market in mobile bars is growing at a rate of knots. From prosecco now being served from converted horseboxes to mobile cocktail bars for the gin enthusiast to simple, fully stocked bars, there's something for everyone.

See blueboxbar.co.uk

N IS FOR NIBBLES

Your guests will love you for keeping them fed and watered throughout the day while you're both off with your photographer, capturing those all-important shots.

Ask the experts at midsussexhogroast.co.uk, which has catering packages to keep tummies happy from the day's beginning to end.

O IS FOR ORGANZA

There's no guarantee that the venue's chairs will work with your theme, in which case, chair covers are a great solution to help you take them back to a blank canvas, and blousy organza sashes in your palette bring attention to detail.

Check out chaircoverchic.co.uk

P IS FOR PHOTO BOOTH

With the best will in the world your photographer will struggle to be everywhere at once, so to capture guests' fun-filled moments hire a photo booth. Terrific entertainment and also a wonderful way to build a guest book filled with smiley happy people.

See propandsnap.co.uk

Q IS FOR QUIRKY

One of the best things about the modern wedding is that if you're not a traditional person, there's no need to have a traditional wedding. If you want a steampunk theme, then you should jolly well have it!

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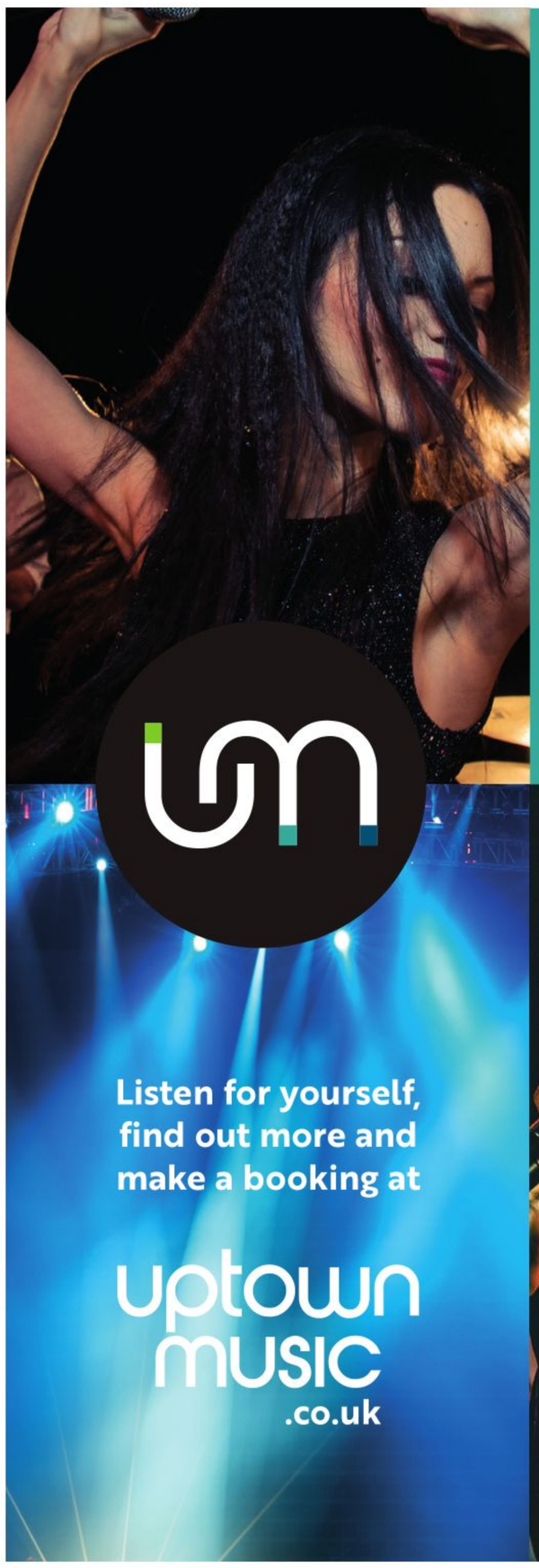

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R IS FOR RINGS

Essential to the exchanging of vows and showing your lifelong commitment to each other, rings are also an element that can carry even more sentiment when injected with your own creative spark. Did you know that you can keep your beloved even closer by incorporating their fingerprint into the design of your wedding ring?

Pop over to olivertwistdesigns.com to discover more.

S IS FOR SETLIST

If you're looking to have a live band playing at your reception, you'll want to meet with them to discuss your perfect setlist for the revelries. Be sure to include some floor-fillers, as well as tunes that you both love. Trust your musicians to put these into the perfect order to ensure your celebrations are a hit.

Head over to uptownmusic.co.uk, where you'll be in safe hands.

T IS FOR TOASTMASTER

Why do you need a toastmaster? So many reasons! Your toastmaster is your right hand on the big day. They're in the foreground to add a traditional touch of formality, but crucially, they're in the background to liaise with venue staff, your suppliers and your guests to make sure everything runs smoothly and ensure you don't need to worry about a thing.

Why not have a chat with Dan to find out more, toastmasterdan.co.uk

U IS FOR UNUSUAL

Why not book yourselves a honeymoon suite with a difference for the wedding night? Check out the five-star luxury tent at greatbritishbelltents.co.uk. Luxurious and exclusively packaged to reflect your style and nature of your wedding, you're sure to enjoy a truly memorable experience.

V IS FOR VEIL

A veil can make the difference between seeing yourself in the mirror wearing a wedding dress and seeing a bride. Instantly softening a look, the veil is a nod to tradition but can still be ultra modern when clipped into a chic up do, worn with loose boho waves or paired with a hair vine.

Check out the selection at catherinefrancis.co.uk

W IS FOR WHEELS

Arrive in style! Vintage classic cars, sleek modern motors, horse and carriage, VW campers… there are a wealth of ways to make your journey to the venue ultra-special. It's your day – make an entrance! Head over to worthparkchauffeurs.co.uk to meet Jack and Roxy, two beautiful powder-blue Jaguars, ready to get you from A to B.

X IS FOR X FACTOR

Take your wedding to the next level with bespoke draping, lighting and lantern displays, plus an on-the-day wedding manager. The possibilities are endless.

Chat to the team at notyouraverageido.com, an expert in wow-factor styling.

Y IS FOR YUM

Sweetie carts and doughnut walls – the 21st-century wedding's answer to the chocolate fountain, and wonderfully indulgent treats for everyone aged one to 100.

Check out parksideevents.co.uk

Z IS FOR ZEN

Whatever you do, make sure you relax and enjoy the day. If you're experiencing wedding morning jitters, try lighting a scented candle. The Calm Aromatherapy Soy Candle from Sussex-based company Made by Coopers Apothecary is filled with a calming blend of five essential oils designed to relax the mind and body.

Check out madebycoopers.com

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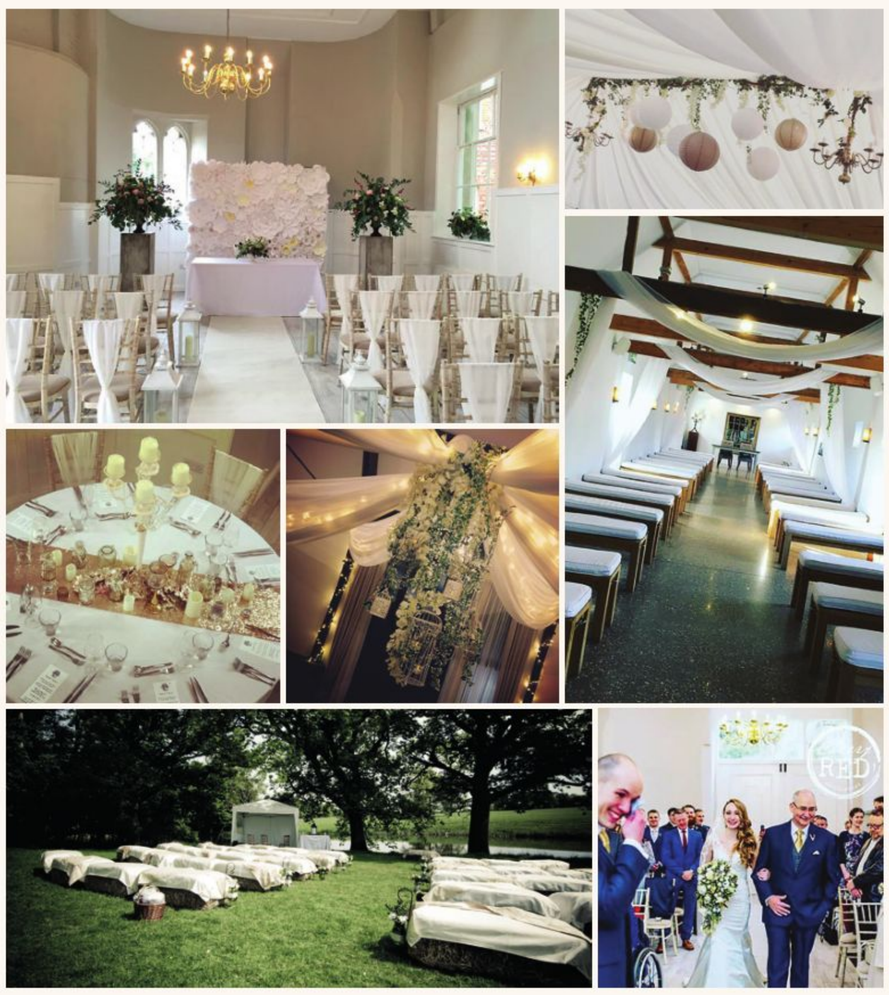

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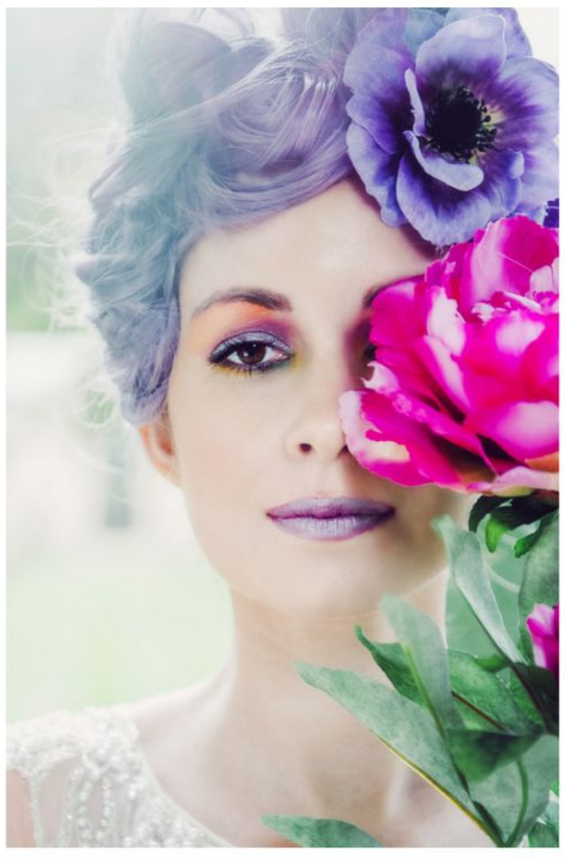
Floral fantasy

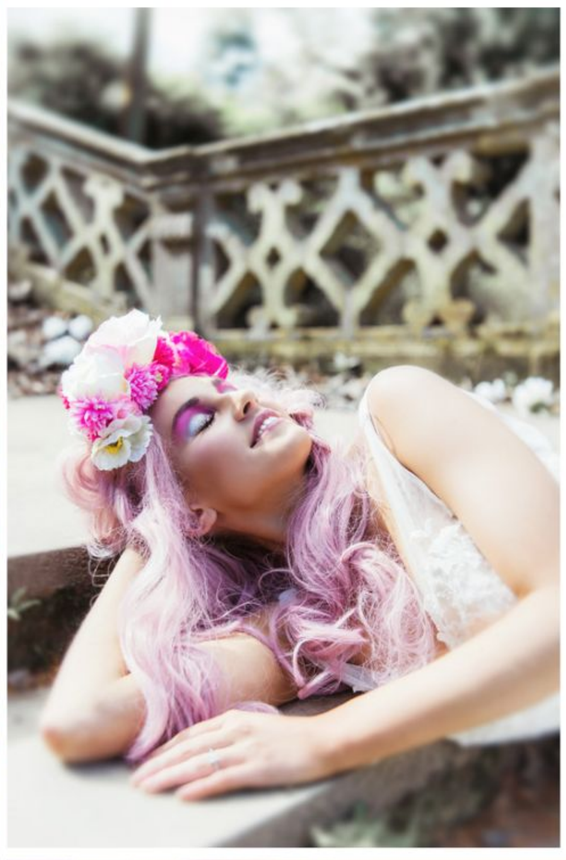
Fall in love with this wonderfully ethereal, whimsical and vibrant bridal shoot

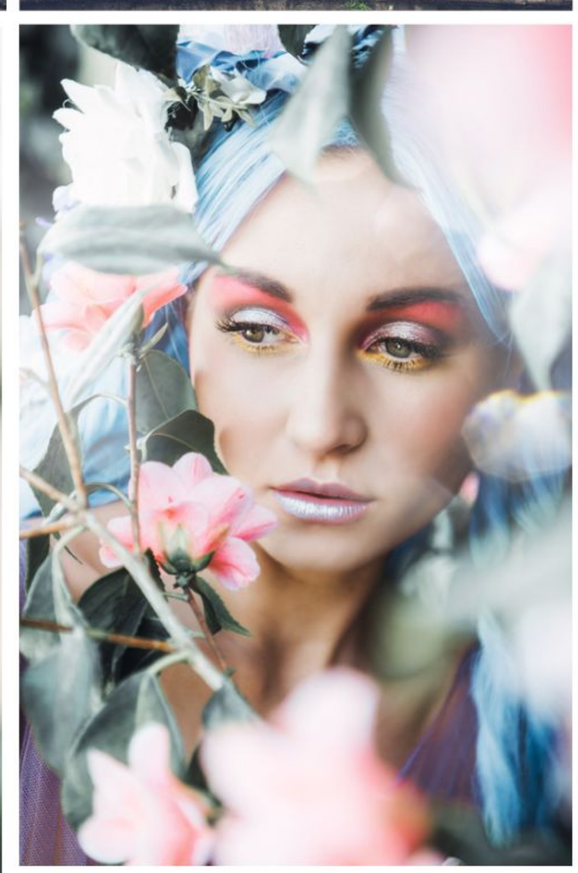
Images courtesy of Teri V Photography

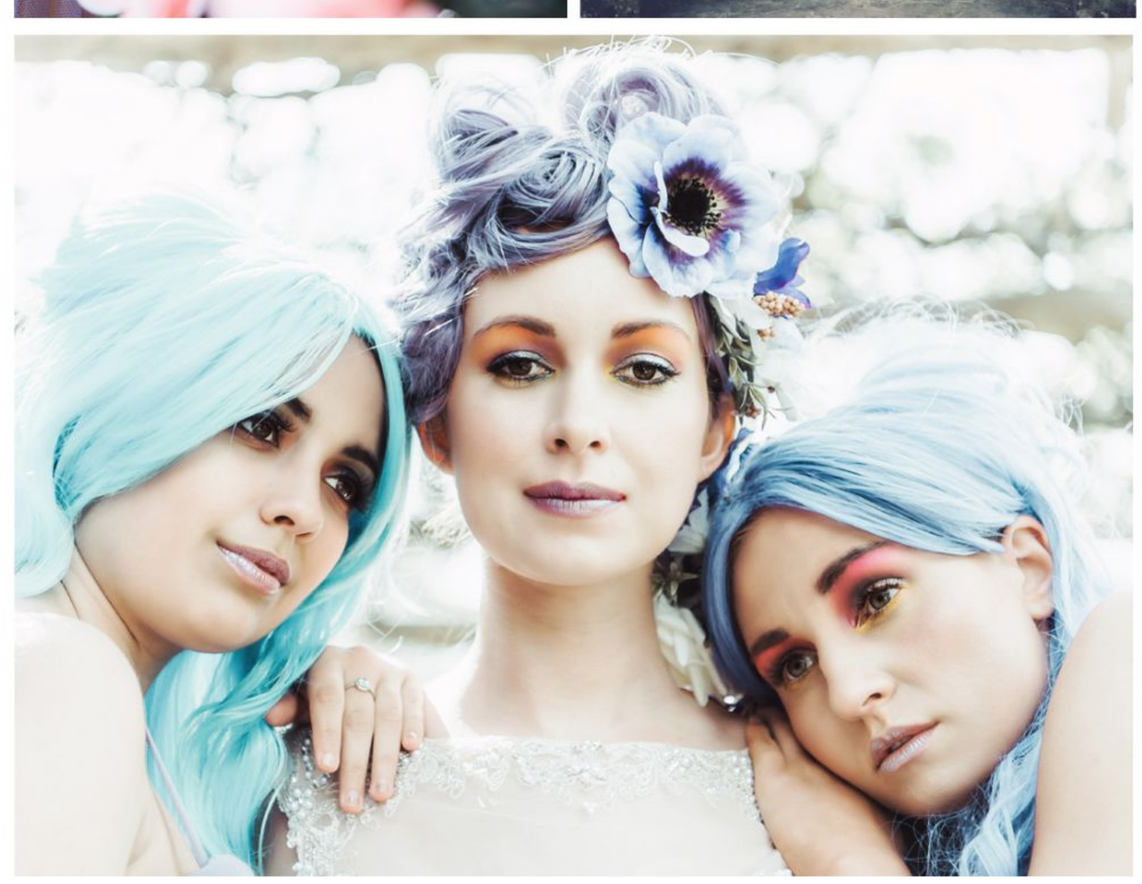
When this incredible styled shoot landed on my desk, it well and truly blew my socks off, and I knew there was no way I could keep it to myself! The exuberant use of colour in the bold and beautiful floral hues sings from the images, creating an edgy, dreamlike ambience.

Photographer and shoot co-ordinator Teri V told us, "Like most people, I'm a massive fan of spring. The time when you feel like you've crawled out of the dark cave of winter, blinking like a mole in the sunlight to see life and colour erupt around you. I wanted to celebrate the season and all that's vibrant, mixing it with a free bohemian bridal feel. So I gathered together a fabulous and trusted team of other wedding suppliers, and everyone worked incredibly hard to bring this idea to reality."









THE DREAM TEAM:

Photographer, Teri V Photography, teriv.co.uk | **Venue**, Hever Castle, hevercastle.co.uk | **Stylist**, Flutterby Events, flutterbyevents.me.uk | **Dresses**, Claire de Lune Bridal, clairedelunebridal.com | **Make-up artist**, Kimberley Louise Make-up, kimberleylmakeup.com | Gecko Bridal, geckobridal.co.uk | **Hair stylist**, Your Event Stylist, youreventstylist.co.uk | **Models**, Lydia Hague, Kim Wachnianin and Lauren Edmonds

Fashion *focus*

Fashion editor Claire Ridley reveals the latest bridal news, buys and launches

Best foot forward

Dune London recently unveiled 16 new ivory satin shoe styles in its Wedding Collection after such high demand for it's previous bridal collection. There are new heel heights, from platforms to flats and a pair of crystal-encrusted sliders ideal for destination weddings. Embellishments include jewelled ribbon ankle ties, decorative sculpted heels studded with rhinestones and pearls, and there's a reworked ivory satin version of the company's 2018 sell-out sandal, the iconic *Loupe* style. There's also matching clutch bags and accessories available, with shoes starting from £99 while accessories start from just £20, visit dunelondon.com

@dune_london

Say it with words

A new jewellery collection has launched from Design Letters that is based on vintage hand-drawn typography by Danish designer Arne Jacobsen. The hand-polished pieces in matte gold plated or sterling silver are a mix of alphabet letters, charms and semi-precious stones that make great bridesmaids' gifts. Why not wear your newly married initial or cluster a few together to spell the word love or wife? Prices start from £12 for semi-precious stones, from £20 for charms and from £25 for letters and chains, designletters.dk

@designletters

EDITOR'S FAVOURITE

These slogan enamel pins, £7 each, can be used to decorate clutch bags, jackets and even dresses, alphabetbags.com

@alphabetbags

Made with Love

Stella McCartney has launched her first bridal collection, Stella McCartney Made with Love. It consists of 17 pieces that reflect her confident, feminine and modern designs. It follows on from the exclusive limited edition Made with Love dress that was launched in June 2018 to celebrate the opening of the new Old Bond Street store and inspired by the wedding reception dress that was designed for the Duchess of Sussex, with its high neck and deep low back. There's seven sleek, elegant wedding dresses, a lace embroidered jumpsuit and a sophisticated ivory tuxedo.

In-store, brides-to-be will receive a bespoke customer experience and as a special touch, each style comes with a blue tag sewn in to each garment featuring a personal message from Stella. Prices start from £675 and dresses will be available in select Stella McCartney stores, Harrods, Net-a-Porter and Selfridges. Visit stellamccartney.com for further information.

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Kit Myers Photography

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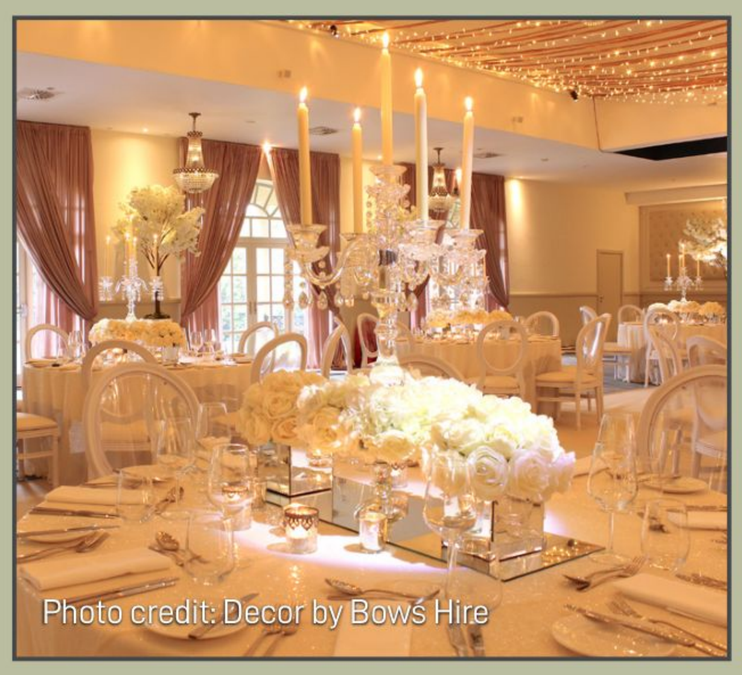

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ianstuart-bride.com

motasem.co.uk

Handmade gold-plated headpiece with clay flowers, £295, rachelsokhalbridal.com

Silver crystal bobby pins, £19 (each), franceluxe.com

Sterling silver and white rhodium-plated Swarovski crystal butterfly hair clip, £200, arunaseth.com

Pearl and crystal hair drape, £79, laceandfavour.com

Crowning glory

Choose a showstopping statement hair accessory

Pearl encrusted headband, £26, crown-love.com

Headpiece with pearls and opal crystals, £125, laceandfavour.com

Opal daisy hair pins, £225 (set of seven), emmylondon.com

Freshwater pearl and beaded floral headdress, £395, hermioneharbutt.com

Pearl and crystal comb, from a selection, johnny-loves-rosie.com

Pearl barrette, £5, uk.accessorize.com

Ivory headpiece with iridescent feather trimmings, £260, beverleyedmondsonmillinery.co.uk

Crystal floral garland, £375, hermioneharbutt.com

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Shimmering STYLE

Richard James, known for traditional Savile Row bespoke tailoring and modern British ready-to-wear menswear, has released new crystallised dinner jackets.

The Crystallised Navy Shantung Silk suit (£855) and the Crystallised Ivory Shawl Collar dinner jacket (£1,425) are available through Selfridges only and are made-to-order in sizes 36-46 (with a two-week turnaround time).

From slim, waisted modern cuts to softer relaxed tailoring Richard James suits are flattering on any frame for every occasion.

Visit selfridges.com/Richard-James

Smoothed and renewed

Feel like the winter weather has taken its toll on your skin? Ensure you're big-day ready with three new hydration champions from Clarins that will intensely moisturise and strengthen your skin.

All are made from the new Hydra Resist Phyto Complex which combines two plant extracts selected for their super-hydrating ability, integrated with the ClarinsMen Complex with a blend of gymnema and bison grass extract.

Available in three different textures, to suit all skin needs: Super Moisture Balm, Super Moisture Gel, and Super Moisture Lotion SPF 20, all are priced £30 from clarins.co.uk

Read all ABOUT IT!

Danielle Harvey shares her latest buys and product launches for guys

MAN OF STEEL

Victorinox, inventor of the legendary Original Swiss Army Knife surprises with a new masterpiece in its innovation pipeline.

Distinctive and cool, STEEL is the new Victorinox signature scent created for the modern man.

Vigorous and refreshing bursts of aquatic accords blend with viola leaves, while lavender and vibrant cedarwood create a compelling scent perfect for grooms on the their big day.

Swiss Army STEEL for men is £50, for 100ml, and stocked at victorinox.com

HANDHELD ESSENTIALS

Thomas Clipper has launched a luxury travel range. The new items are perfect for grooms travelling for their stag do or honeymoon, with a leather cardholder starting from £49 up to £1,195 for the leather overnight bag.

What's more, the new contrasting colour way cardholder – released in December – is sure to be a hit with fashion-led grooms. Check out thomasclipper.com

Best foot forward

Cole Haan, the innovative American lifestyle brand and retailer, has introduced dress shoes as part of its collection.

The groundbreaking reinvention of the dress shoe combines traditional craft with modern engineering. Each unites lightweight and cushioned energy foam, a precision-engineered anatomical footbed, and full-motion outsole to create flexibility and comfort – essentials for the wedding day which can be a long affair!

Available styles include Hamilton Grand Wingtip Oxford, Washington Grand Laser Wingtip Oxford and Jefferson Grand Wingtip Oxford, prices range between £155 to £310. Launched in the UK in 2016, the brand is available at Harrods, Selfridges, Liberty and other selected retailers in the UK. Check out colehaanstore.co.uk

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HOT TOPIC

Our experts tackle the questions you might never have thought to ask

FLOWER POWER

How can my bouquet complement my dress?

Steph says: It's important for your florist to see a picture of your wedding dress if you're asking for a bespoke bouquet to be made. They'll be able to assess the detail and design of your gown, as well as your proportions, and design a floral display to fit perfectly. Don't be afraid to ask for a sketch of the design they've created.

Imagine – an organza dress is lightweight, usually full of fabric and demands a floating fairytale bouquet with matte textures. On the other hand, a heavy satin gown will look at its best if some of the blooms reflect a little light to complement the texture. Lace always looks incredible with a whimsical vintage-style affair.

Finally, when you're planning your consultation together with your fiancé, if you prefer to keep details of your dress secret, it's best if you email beforehand so you can keep this part of the conversation private and maintain the element of surprise.

Steph Willoughby, chirpee.net

SNAP CHAT

Is copyright of my photographs something I need to be conscious of?

Justine says: Whoever clicks the shutter owns the copyright of any photograph. It protects the photographer by preventing people from copying their work and claiming it as their own. It also stops them selling, renting, lending or giving it away for free, as well as showing the work in public or adapting it in any way. Copyright protection is automatic for the photographer, as it would be for any artist or anyone creating an image.

When it comes to copyright of wedding photographs, it's pretty straightforward. They do belong to the photographer, but don't worry, you can ask your photographer not to use your images for advertising or promotion if you prefer to keep them private.

You'll usually find that your wedding images will come with permission to print, which we fully understand will be distributed to close family or printed in photo books. However, your photographer will usually ask that you use a watermarked version on social media, just so that they can retain some recognition.

Justine Claire, justineclaire.com

SO LONG, FAREWELL

How can we ensure the end of our wedding day is fitting and memorable?

Harriet says: It's so important that your big day finishes on a high. After all, at the end of a long and joyous day, the culmination of months of planning, why wouldn't you want your guests to remember it? Once celebrations have drawn to a close, you can achieve this with nothing less than a beautiful and memorable send-off. Whether you're staying in newlyweds' accommodation at your venue or heading off elsewhere, delegate a trusted member of your bridal party or venue team the responsibility of gathering together your nearest and dearest, each with a sparkler in hand to send you both off through a tunnel of sparklers, wishing you well on your journey into married life. A perfect, well-rounded finish to the day's proceedings.

Harriet Ellis-Smith, hendall.co.uk

YOUR HAPPY PLACE

How do we choose our perfect venue?

Paul says: Choosing your perfect venue can be a difficult decision, but it really shouldn't be. Much like you know your intended is *the one*, you'll encounter a similar sense of knowing with your venue. *The one* should be somewhere you feel instantly comfortable, somewhere you can relax and feel totally looked after. So the best advice we can give you is to choose a place that feels like coming home.

Your venue will play a huge role in shaping the ambience of your wedding. It becomes a third character in the narrative of your wedding story, so it's important to start with creating a vision of what you want to portray for your big day before you begin the search. Your style and personality as a couple will come into play when you consider how to reflect those traits in your venue. Consider whether you're likely to feel more at home in a hotel, stately home, barn or even in the open air.

Part of finding the perfect place to say "I do" is finding a natural rapport with its wedding team. They'll be the ones to ensure your day runs impeccably, so you need to sense that trust from the time they look after you at your initial viewing right through to the last dance.

Paul Sandell, fieldplace.co.uk

NO NEED FOR SPEED

How long do we get the car for?

Marcus says: For however long you reasonably need it! However, some companies may impose limits, meaning you can only hire the car for a certain amount of time, or there might be an hourly charge on top of the standard hire charge. You'll find, though, that reputable companies won't impose unreasonable time limits, meaning you can take full advantage of the car without having to clock-watch.

With no time limit, extra possibilities automatically open up, such as being able to take the bridesmaids to the venue before returning for the bride. Likewise, after the "I dos," the car can stay for photos or take the happy couple for a scenic drive together.

Having a time limit changes the dynamic, and however much you plan for the big day, things always take longer than you expect, whether it's getting ready in the morning or taking wedding photos after the service. So look for a company that doesn't impose unreasonable time limits. It gives you one less thing to worry about.

Marcus Sheen, paladinsclassiccars.co.uk

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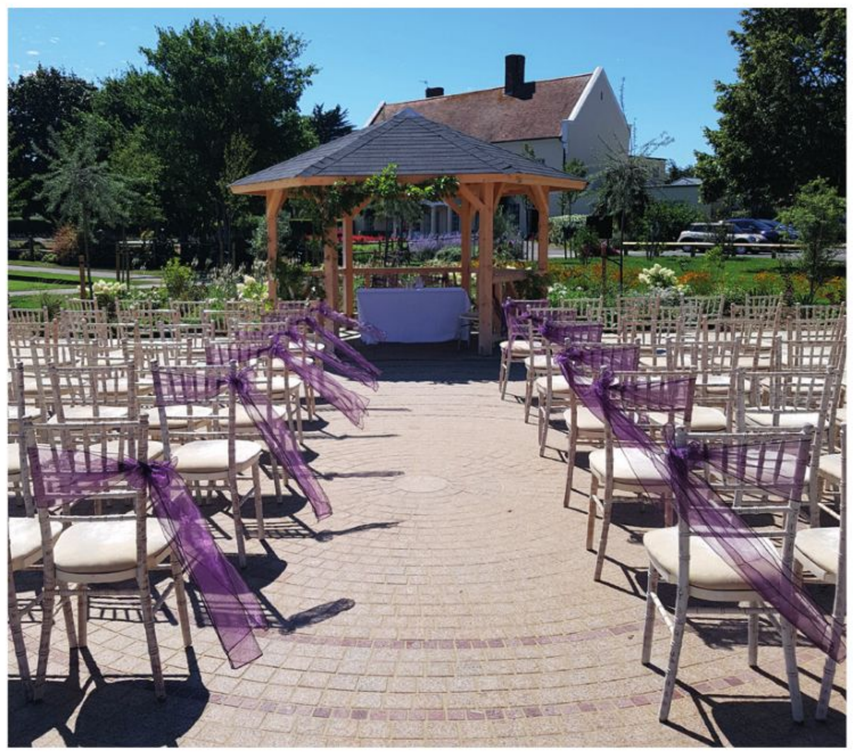

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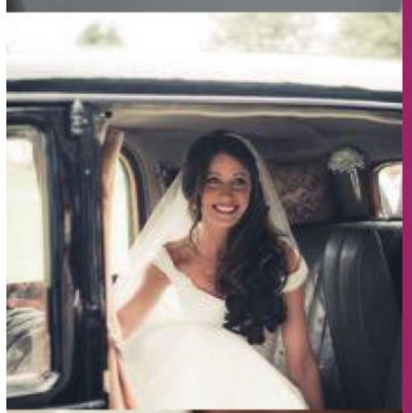

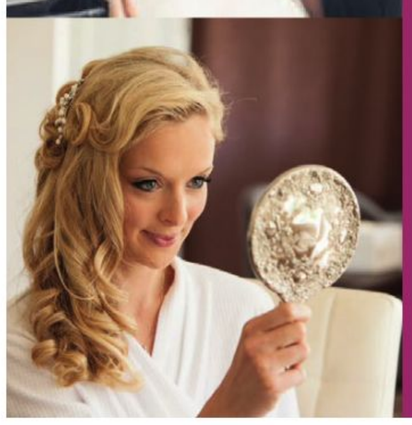

Lucy Meyer specialises in Bridal and Editorial Makeup. With over 18 years industry experience, Lucy brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding of how makeup will perform, to create a makeup that will last from morning to night.

When you book your wedding makeup with Lucy everything is taken care of from your trial, entire bridal party, wedding day makeup and your essential touch up products for the day.

For all bookings please visit lucymeyer.co.uk.

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THE LOOK OF LOVE

We ask local beauty experts how to achieve the latest bridal looks

Whether you're a make-up aficionado and want to take care of your own big-day look or you'd prefer to leave it to the professionals for a stress-free morning, you'll want to look flawless. Regardless, you've probably asked yourself the same questions we did when putting together this feature: What colours suit me? What hair and make-up look will complement my theme? What products do I need? The list goes on. Well, fear not! Sussex is full of hugely talented beauty professionals who know all the answers to these dilemmas. So grab a cuppa and join us as we sit down with the experts to find out how to get the look.

mckinley-rodgers.com

VINTAGE ROMANCE

Make-up by Laura Parsons, lauraparsonsbeauty.com

Laura says: "I achieved this look using a semi-matte foundation, giving a flawless, powdered, porcelain finish with a radiant glow. Once the eyes were primed, I set with a nude tone eyeshadow. I used only two other matte colours – starting with a light dusky pink and blending into a warm taupe. A great tip is to use a slightly lighter shade to apply over the whole eyelid at the end. It blends all the colours together beautifully and softens edges for a perfect finish.

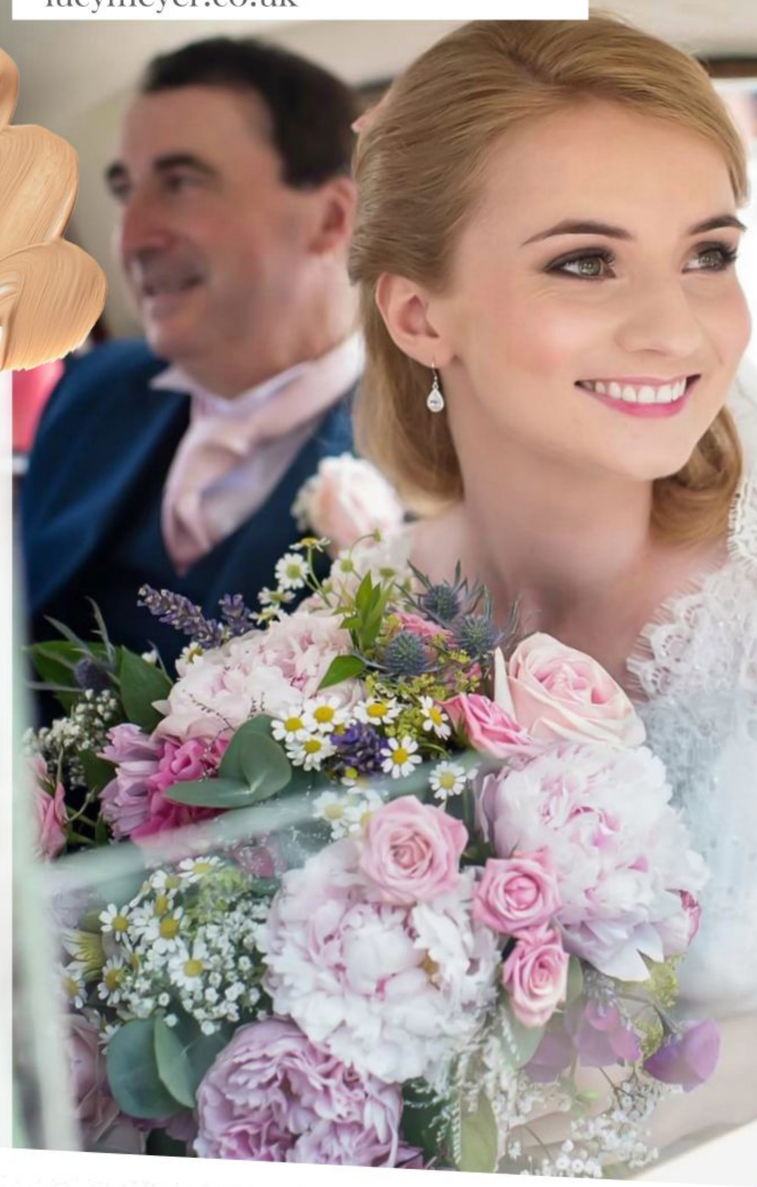
My bride had various light pinks running through her chosen palette for the day, so I used cooler pink tones on the cheeks and lips to bring everything together. "

"This is my all-time favourite bridal look, being exceptionally flattering to most complexions and skin tones. It's adaptable and perfect for a spring or summer wedding, also working well with more simple and elegant dress styles" – Laura

LUSCIOUS LOCKS: "For the hair, I'd suggest nothing too elaborate. Simple, soft, bouncy curls or a voluptuous blow dry with an understated accessory or fresh flowers is all that's needed here."

ENGLISH ROSE

Make-up by Lucy Meyer, lucymeyer.co.uk



sarareeve.com

Lucy says: "My signature bridal style always begins with beautiful skin, and that process starts from the trial, discussing and recommending the correct skincare to ensure the skin is in tip-top condition for the big day.

On-the-day skin prep is also a vital part of the make-up process. I use a primer containing a skin illuminator, MAC Strobe Cream, to give the perfect base for foundation, which I buff into the skin using a duo fibre brush for a polished finish.

While we were looking for a departure from bride Melissa's day-to-day bronzed look here, I still used a golden bronzer to add warmth and to sculpt the face, combining a cream blush and highlighter to create a beautiful rose glow on the cheeks. This works to lift a paler skin tone, especially when wearing white or ivory.

I defined Melissa's soft hazel/green eyes in complementary soft pinks, mulberry and taupe shades – MAC Naked Lunch, Yogurt, Satin Taupe and BlackBerry.

Individual lashes completed the look, and brows were kept natural but groomed and set with clear brow gel with any gaps filled.

I always try to work with the natural tone of the lip, which was enhanced here using a lip stain, Benefit Posie Tint, and finished with a balm for comfort."

"This makeup style works really well on a paler skin tone and is especially flattering on anyone with auburn or strawberry blonde hair, as the soft pinks give just enough colour to look natural yet enhancing." – Lucy

TIMELESS TRESSES: "Melissa's hair was worn back from her face in soft open curls, with just enough secured at back to anchor the beautiful cathedral-length veil in place.

The overall look is an homage to a timeless English country wedding that brings out the bride's natural beauty."

sarahleggephotography.co.uk

NATURAL GLAM

Hair and make-up by Alison J Smith, bridalbeauty.co.uk

Alison says: "I love fresh, naturally radiant skin for my brides, which here was achieved using Airbase airbrush-applied foundation and Chanel Vitalumière. Laura Mercier bronzer and highlighter gave just enough glow, with a pop of peachy pink Bobbi Brown blusher on the cheeks. I went for a slightly smoky eye using MAC Basic B*tch Palette and Coffee Eye Pencil. MAC Cremesheen Glass in Deelight gave the lips a peachy pink glaze."

"This look is great for a bride who wants unfussy hair that will last all day and natural make-up with a touch of added glamour." – Alison

CROWNING GLORY: "When a bride opts to wear her hair down, it's important that it doesn't hide the neckline or detract from the dress' features but, in this case, worked perfectly with the beautiful Enzoani strapless gown. I curled the hair using BaByliss Pro 24mm ceramic tongs, adding layers of clip-in hair extensions as I went. A little height was teased into the top of the hair before softly twisting a few sections back and pinning behind the crown. A crystal- and pearl-encrusted comb and hair pins added the finishing touches."

joemallenphotography.co.uk

BOHO CHIC

Hair and make-up by Emma Olliff, emmaolliff.com

"A beautiful unstructured look that almost gives the appearance of being make-up free while still looking glam, with hair that could have been thrown together in a couple of minutes. Think just-picked-from-the-meadow flowers and relaxed eclectic venue styling. All of which actually involve a lot of creative genius behind the scenes!"

MAKING WAVES: "For the hair, we went for the half-up, half-down look, with beach waves and fresh flowers strewn through the back."

Emma says: "To begin, prep the skin with a primer specifically formulated for your skin type. Next, apply foundation. Here I used a dewy formulation for a fresh, natural look before concealing the under-eye area. Set all of this with a light powder all over the face or just your T-zone if you have dry skin.

Using a shadow brush, apply a warm bronze all over the lower part of the lid and just above the crease of the eye and along the lower lash line. Add a touch of highlight – I used gold for this look – before curling your lashes and adding mascara.

For the lips, a peachy lipgloss works beautifully with a pinky blush on the cheeks. I used one with a touch of shimmer on this bride for a dewy look. Apply more bronzer to finish, using the number three as your guide. Start at the top of the forehead, brush along your cheekbones and sweep across the jawline."

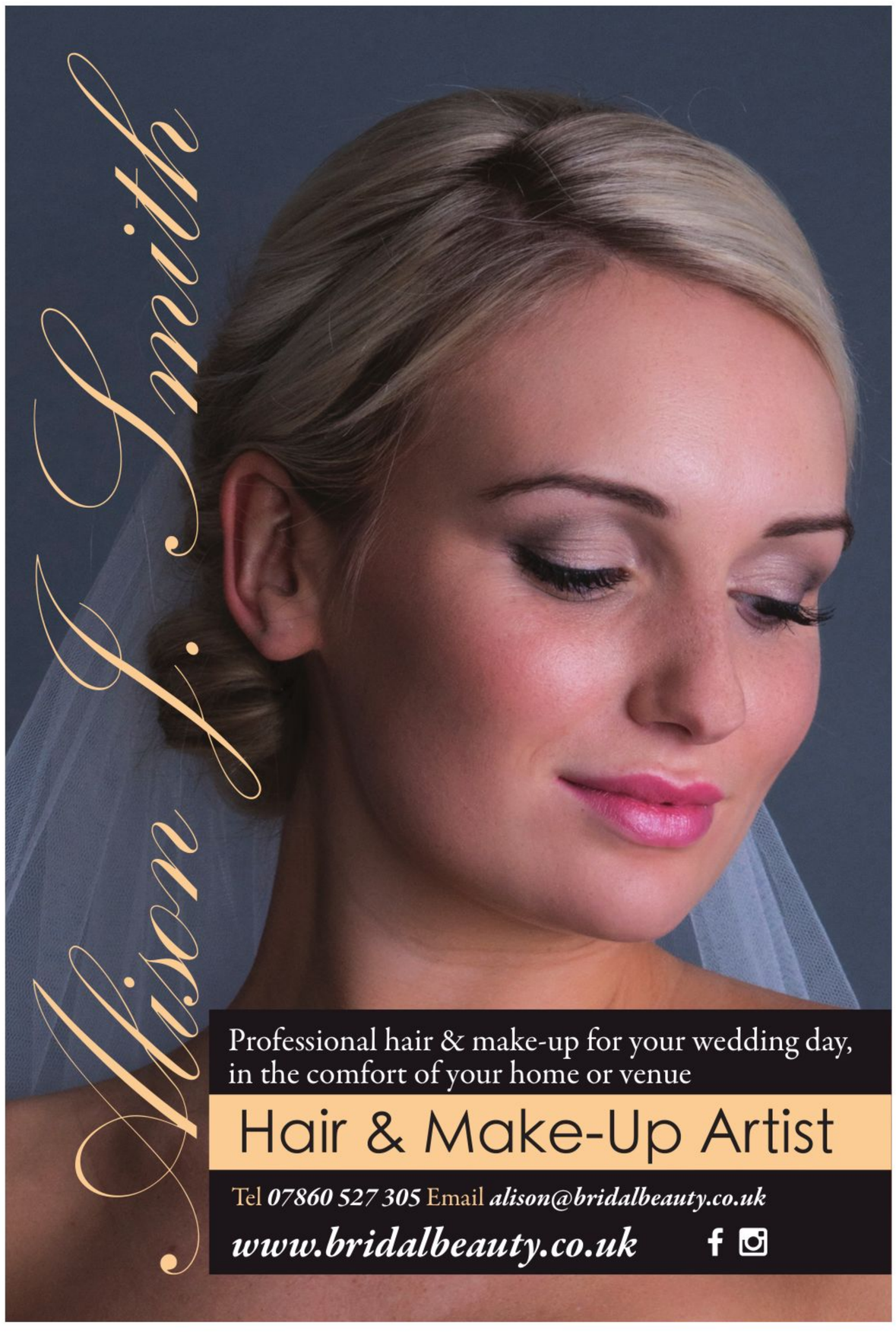
#BRIDETRIBE

Hair by @BeautyTheraMe

Georgie says: "Finding the perfect style to suit your girls, while complementing your own can be tricky. A good starting point has to be the day's theme and the time of year. For example, a winter wonderland wedding will lend itself to a very different look from nuptials in the sun.

It's best to take a steer away from the style you've chosen to wear yourself. Consider if you'll be wearing your hair up or down. If you're having a half up do, styling the girls similarly, but with all of the hair pinned up, can really complement your own look. Likewise, if you've chosen to dress your tresses with flowers or other accessories, smaller versions of these for the bridesmaids can look great to bring the whole party together.

Some popular styles I've created of late include oversized Dutch braids, twisted up dos and romantic low buns. There are many videos online that demonstrate how to achieve various hairstyles, allowing the bride squad to do their own hair on the day if they prefer, or even just to practice and find the perfect look."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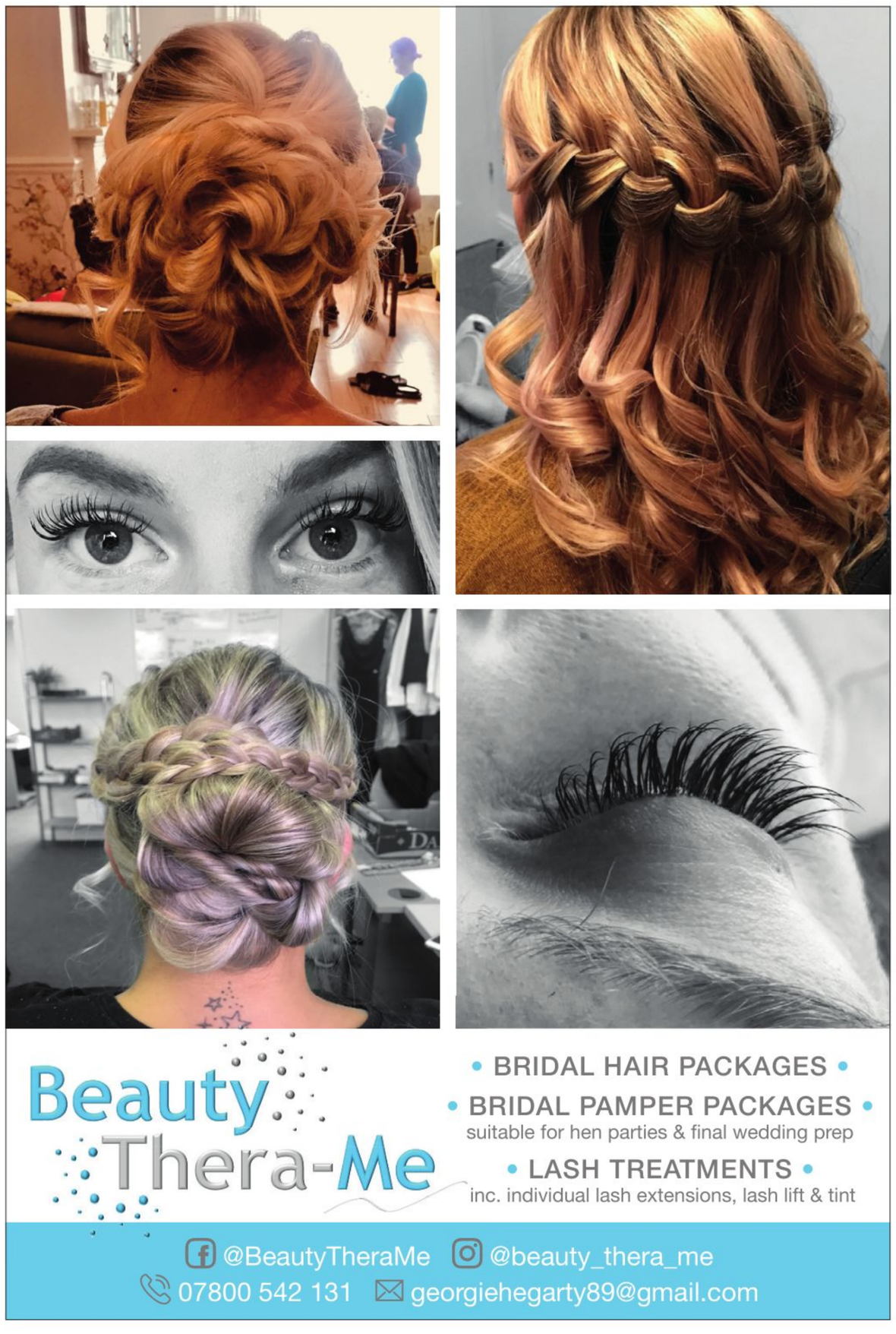
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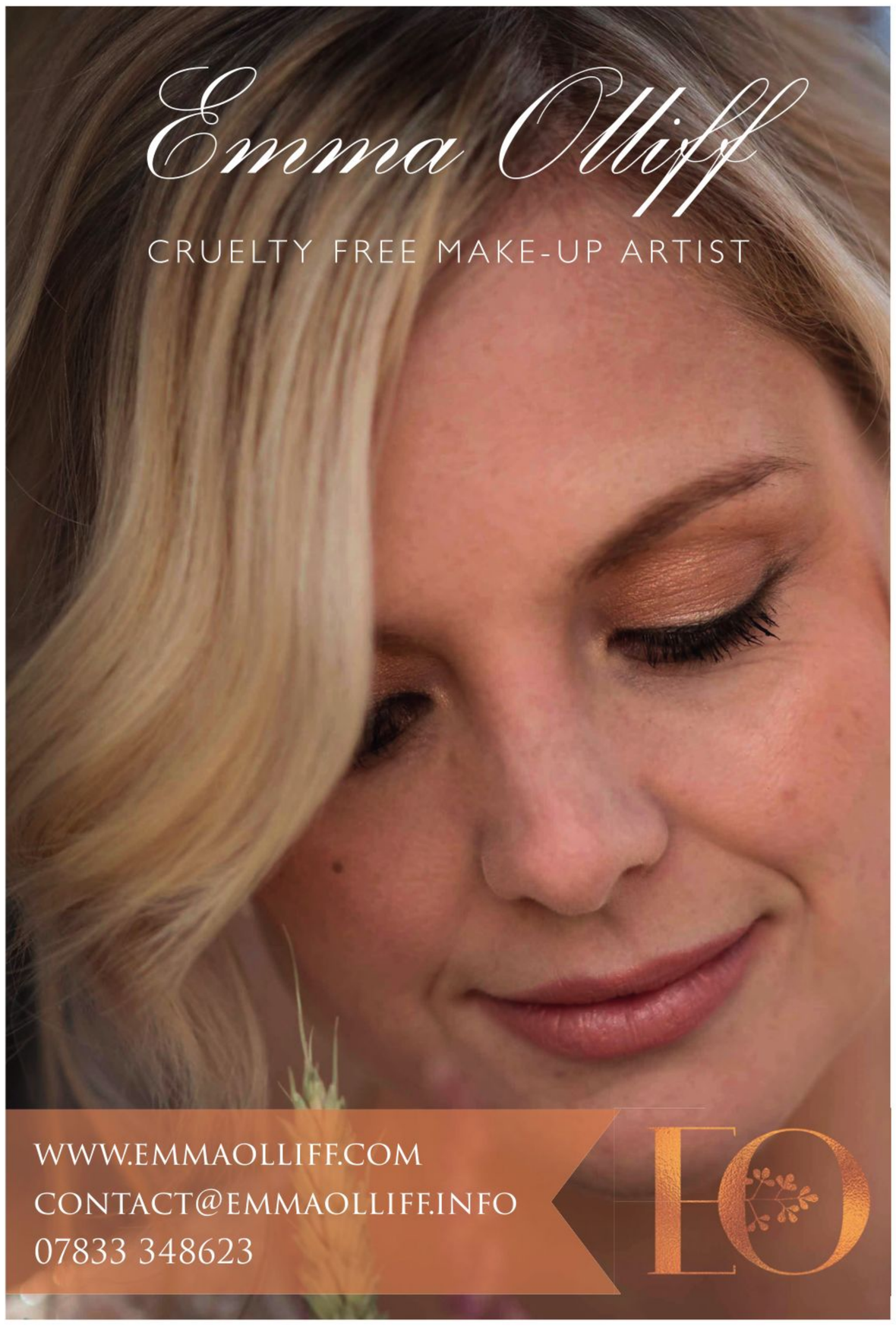
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CLASSICAL ELEGANCE

Hair and make-up by Kate Bishop, katebishopmakeup.com

"From the delicate lace on her beautiful gown, fresh-faced make-up and classic hairstyle bride, Emma, looked stunning – one of my favourite bridal looks of the season." – Kate

SOFT AND SUBTLE STYLE: "For Emma, I created a classic chignon with cross over, using heated rollers to add lift and a little wave. To keep some body in the top, I added a little Design.ME Puff.ME Volumising Powder Mist to the roots before backcombing, fixing with hairspray and smoothing over to keep her style tidy and elegant. I didn't want too much volume though or she would be all hair and no face. It's always a balancing act, and with her petite frame and classical look, it was all about a subtle and soft approach.

I prefer my brides to wash their hair at least a day before, if not longer; styling with fresh clean hair can be difficult if their shampoo and conditioner act as a barrier, meaning backcombing can drop out, slides can slide right out or, in rare cases, the product can block out the full effect of heated tools.

Finally, I used the GHDs to add some little twists by the ears to soften the look, which is necessary with an off-the-face style. It's a strange idea, but when creating styles that are central at the back, you need something to soften the face – otherwise it can appear in photos that you have no hair!

I smoothed down strays with a generous coating of hairspray, as the style needs to last 12 hours or more. My little tip is to coat the back of a comb or a toothbrush with hairspray and lightly stroke over the hair and the nape to capture all those little wispy bits."

Kate says: "First, to achieve Emma's perfect complexion I used the Renew You skincare range. Primer is a must; it evens out the skin and helps the make-up last. I used Charlotte Tilbury Wonderglow for a beautiful healthy, dewy look and Urban Decay Eyeshadow Primer in Eden on the eyelids.

My current favourite foundation for brides is Urban Decay All Nighter. The coverage is perfect for photographs, and it really lasts. I like to apply with a full foundation brush to give a soft, even coverage. Setting it in place with bareMinerals Mineral Veil.

With Emma's fair complexion, it's important to use the right products to put colour back into the face after foundation, concealer and powder. MAC Desert Rose Powder Blush is a great bridal colour and one that seems to suit most skin tones, used alongside Charlotte Tilbury Filmstar Bronze & Glow in fair/medium for some subtle contouring and warmth.

For defining Emma's eyes, I used Vermeer and Buon Fresco from an Anastasia Beverley Hills palette and Bellini and Talk Derby To Me from the Too Faced Sweet Peach Eye Shadow Palette. MAC Liquid Eye Liner is a make-up artist's best friend! I'm old school so still favour this medium over gel, and this one is quite dry so I get next to no mess. A little kohl pencil and some Ardell Demi Wispies opened up Emma's eyes with a natural look.

To tidy up, I used a little Charlotte Tilbury Legendary Brow, adding slight definition. I always use Maybelline mascara, and it's all about waterproof. I can't have all that work cried off! Finally, I applied a sheer gloss by Estée Lauder, which has just the right amount of shine for a gorgeous look."

BE PREPARED

If we've learned one thing, it's that skin prep is key to flawless make-up application, and since your MUA can't be with you 24/7 in the run up to the big day, this step is over to you. We spoke to Gina Llewellyn from Sussex-based vegan-friendly and cruelty-free beauty brand A Touch Unique to get her tips for the best routine…

- **Cleanse.** Essential to your beauty regime to remove day-to-day dirt, dead skin cells and make-up from clogged pores. I recommend a quick and simple cleanser that leaves you feeling fresh and clean, such as ATU Grapefruit, Lavender and Frankincense. After washing your face with warm water, gently massage your chosen cleanser over your face and neck with your fingertips, using upward and circular motions, or pop on to a moistened cotton wool pad.
- **Tone.** Apply product, such as ATU Tea Tree, to a cotton pad and pat gently over the face and neck. Avoid rubbing.
- **Moisturise.** I recommend a product containing Q10 and SPF25, like our Rose Day Cream. Apply a small amount to the face and neck, avoiding the eye area, gently tapping and blending into the skin evenly.

Check out atouchunique.co.uk

COMING UP ROSES

I absolutely love this Pro-Collagen Rose Cleansing Balm from Elemis. A powerful cleanser, it easily dissolves make-up, daily grime and pollutants for a soft and glowing complexion. With the aid of the accompanying luxury cleansing cloth it left my skin feeling completely clean and refreshed, without the sensation of tight dryness you sometimes get with standard cleansers. Not to mention the wonderful scent of 17 varieties of hand-harvested roses, sourced from a small family-owned farm situated deep in the English countryside.

See elemis.com for more information. Priced at £43.

Spring into action

We're putting the winter blues firmly behind us here at County Weddings HQ and starting to feel a spring in our step! For me nothing brings springtime to mind like the fabulous fragrance of beauty botanicals and we have some terrific natural products in this issue's round up for you.

Kelly Kelly Andrews, beauty editor

Get up and glow

The new Glow Up! Illuminator Drops from Prima Make-up is designed to make you stand out from the crowd. Highly pigmented they truly capture the light, bringing out your favourite features and giving you that perfect bridal glow. We love the four fab shades available to work around your chosen make-up look – dusky, bronze, pearl and gold.

Priced at £9.99. Check out primamakeup.com

Beauty BUZZ

All the latest beauty must-haves for the bride-to-be

BALANCING ACT

This beauty superhero is a lightweight multi-tasking moisturiser that cleverly treats both oily and dry areas with a texture like pure velvet to balance out the needs of changing skin through the seasons. A dream for those with combination skin.

Temple Spa Moisture To Go Balancing Moisturiser is £36 from templespa.com

BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS

I was lucky enough to put Angela Langford's Bloom & Glow through its paces recently. It didn't leave an oily residue as you may expect but absorbed quickly into the skin leaving it feeling soft, supple and refreshed, with a wonderful fragrance of chia seed and sea buckthorn to calm the senses. Named by the Good Housekeeping Institute as its best facial oil for 2018, this little gem is perfect for sensitive, easily inflamed or skin that's generally out of kilter.

Available from angelalangford.com, priced at £20.50 for 15ml.

Brush it up

This palm-sized face cleanser brush delivers deep yet gentle facial scrubbing with innovative T-Sonic technology. The ergonomic three-zone brush is designed for all skin types. It couldn't be easier, just dampen your face and apply your favourite cleanser. Wet the brush, turn it on and glide it across the skin in circular motions. All it takes is one minute twice a day for a fresh, clear and even-looking complexion.

The FOREO LUNA mini Electric Face Brush Portable Cleanser, currently priced at £85, is available on amazon.co.uk/launchpad

SCENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

Wedding day perfume selection can be a tricky experience. Do you go with your usual signature scent or do you try something different? If the latter, how can you be sure it will suit you? Do you commit to a big expensive bottle? Well, Sniph takes the pressure off and brings the joy back into the experience with its perfume discovery service. It's possible to discover up to 12 scents per year from niche perfume houses around the world in a convenient 8ml size. So take your time and find something new along the way.

Available in three, six and 12-month subscriptions, starting at £40. Check out sniph.co.uk

BATHE IN LUXURY

We've just got wind of some exciting news here at CWM HQ – Urban Apothecary London is launching its Bath & Body Collection in six beautiful scents exclusive to the brand: coconut grove, fig tree, oriental noir, velvet peony, oudh geranium and green lavender. If you're looking to treat yourself to some luxury for your wedding and honeymoon we suggest the hand and body wash. Infused with the highest-grade natural ingredients, they're blended with coconut oil to smooth and moisturise, leaving the skin clean and hydrated.

Priced at £22 and available from urbanapothecarylondon.com

A natural smile

Imagined and created on the Cote d'Azur overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, LEBON is a glamourous, luxury, oral care brand. Free from parabens, SLS, fluoride and titanium dioxide, the products are packed with natural and organic goodness. Ethical ingredients are carefully selected and combined with delicious perfumed natural notes from Grasse. Certified organic aloe vera and green tea naturally help protect gums and prevent tooth decay while the extract of papaya has a powerful natural whitening effect.

Launched for 2019 is the mouthwash, Making Waves, £36 and 25ml travel size collection, ideal for your honeymoon, £29.

Check out lebontoothpaste.co.uk

RESCUE ROLLER

This handbag hero contains lavender and chamomile essential oils blended with coconut oil and helps calm and soothe any reactive, dry areas of skin. If that's not enough, this healing blend of oils soothes minor cuts, grazes and burns. You won't want to leave home without it!

The new Tisserand Aromatherapy Lavender & Chamomile Treatment Roller, priced at £5.95 is available from tisserand.com

Go to bed sleepy head

Made By Coopers is a modern apothecary crafting natural and organic products for your skin and soul. The Sleepy Head Room and Pillow Mist helps to ease you into a blissful night's sleep with its gorgeous blend of lavender, chamomile and frankincense – a powerful combination to de-stress and unwind.

A couple of sprays onto my pillow and I felt the calm instantly wash over me. It's worth a try to help you catch up on some quality sleep in the run up to your wedding.

Available from madebycoopers.com at £15.

Siren's song

Jusbox Perfume takes its inspiration from music genres and icons from over the decades, with the idea that both music and perfume can bring back hidden emotions and memories. I love Siren & Sailors, inspired by London's Camden Town and its most iconic resident Amy Winehouse, paying homage to her sultry vocals and passionate lyrics. This fragrance is a delicious blend of peach, rose, rum absolute, a whisky accord and patchouli.

Available at selfridges.com it's priced at £140 for 78ml.

GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT

Olverum, famous for its iconic bath oil beloved by celebrities and the Royal Family, has launched its first new products in over 80 years! The two body oils both contain alaria esculenta extract to boost the synthesis of collagen and hyaluronic acid, preserving skin's firmness and elasticity. We love the dry oil. Ultra-light and super fine, this lightweight, breathable, therapeutic spray is ideal for on-the-go use. Absorbing almost instantly it rapidly restores the skin's barrier to promote lasting hydration.

Available from olverum.com the Body Oil is priced at £40 and the Dry Body Oil at £36.

WEDDING WELLNESS

Beauty editor Kelly Andrews brings you her pick of products to help you feel fighting fit for the big day

Delivering delicious, high-quality food, Vibrant Vegan Co. is a sustainable and socially conscious food subscription company that makes healthy meals while tackling the issue of plastic waste. Packaging is either compostable, up-cycled or 100 per cent recyclable. Box selections include lifestyle-matching options such as 'Calorie Controlled', 'Lean Protein' and 'Slow Burning Carbs'. For more information visit vibrantvegan.co.uk

Enjoy the benefits of deep relaxation and calm in the comfort of your own home with the Lava Shells Spa-At-Home Self-Heating Massage Kit. As an extension of your own hand the lava shell works naturally with your muscles, helping to release tensions, stiffness and knots. The set includes five Kokolokahi body and bath oils. £49 from sharedbeautysecrets.com

Made from fermenting green tea, Equinox Kombucha is a tasty drink full of beneficial bacteria, essential acids and B-vitamins to aid gut health and support digestion. Used for centuries as a source of wellbeing, kombucha is known for its various health and beauty boosting properties and thanks to its natural fizz, many drink it as an alternative to alcohol – ideal if you're looking to cut out the booze in the lead up to the wedding.

Equinox's delicious new flavour pink grapefruit and guava is available from Waitrose or equinoxkombucha.com priced at £1.80.

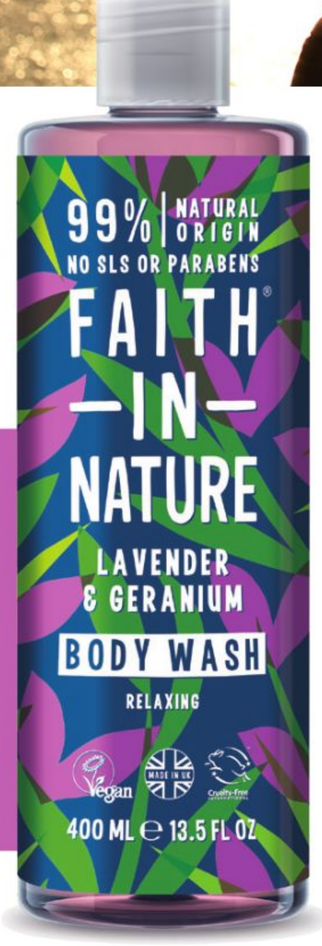
If wedding planning is leaving you wide-awake with thoughts buzzing around your head, your eyes might be giving you away. Try Bea Skin Care Recovery Treatment Eye Mask. Containing skin boosting co-enzyme Q10 with anti-aging collagen, it works to address dehydration and dull skin. £50 for six pairs from bea-skincare.com

The trend for bullet journaling not only has a tremendously practical application for compartmentalising and organising your wedding plans, but is also a tried and tested mindfulness practice. It works by allowing you to get the thoughts racing around in your head, possibly overwhelming you with anxiety, out into the world where they're easier to process.

Get yourself started with this fab set from Derwent containing A5 bullet journal, four graphic line makers and pen wrap for £29.99. Check out derwentart.com

If last year was anything to go by you might need to prepare for searing temperatures for your summer wedding. This little gem will be a great help. Incognito Natural Crystal Deodorant has a fresh citrus fragrance attractive to humans but fortunately not to insects! Made from natural ingredients and being environmentally friendly, it's the first alum crystal to be infused with an essential oil. Priced at £4.49 it's available from lessmosquito.com

If your new year's resolution involves exercise and you're ready to hit the gym, you'll need all the support you can get. Check out Adidas' Stronger For It Bra, £49.95, from a statement collection inspired by Stella McCartney. A perfect support system for larger cup sizes, its built-in shape is designed to limit bounce during high intensity workouts. Head over to adidas.co.uk



Established in 1974, Faith in Nature's products are made using the highest quality, naturally derived, cruelty-free, vegan friendly, paraben and SLS-free ingredients, with 100 per cent natural fragrance. The lavender and geranium body wash is packed with essential oils to relax the mind and soothe the body. £5.60 for 400ml from faithinnature.co.uk

Bio-Synergy's Active Woman range is designed especially to meet female nutrition needs. The bundle offers products that are not only made from natural ingredients to help you get in shape and smash your health and fitness goals, but also contains specific nutrients including vitamin D, iron, calcium and folic acid, essential for all women. Check out bio-synergy.uk

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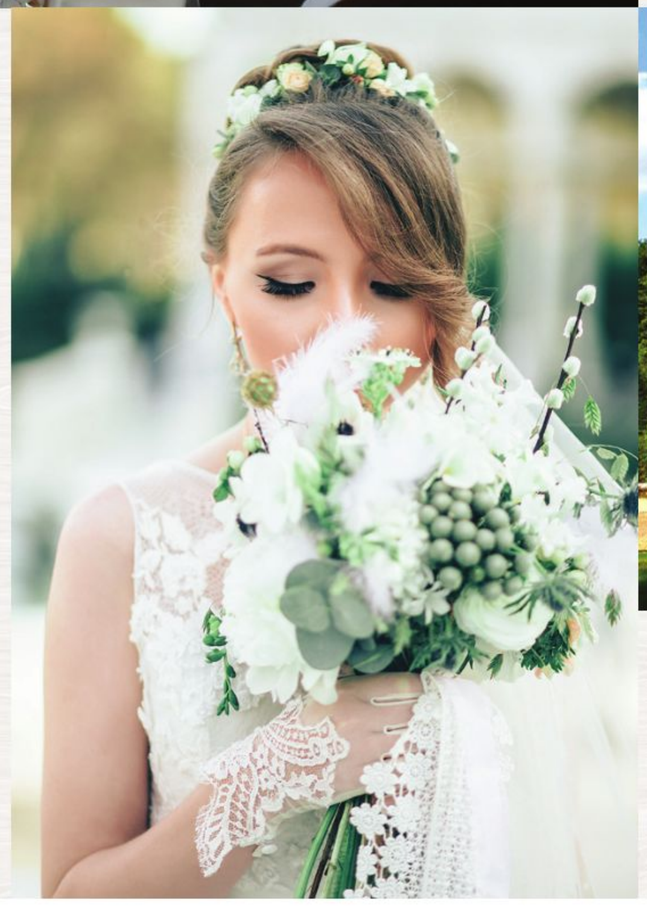

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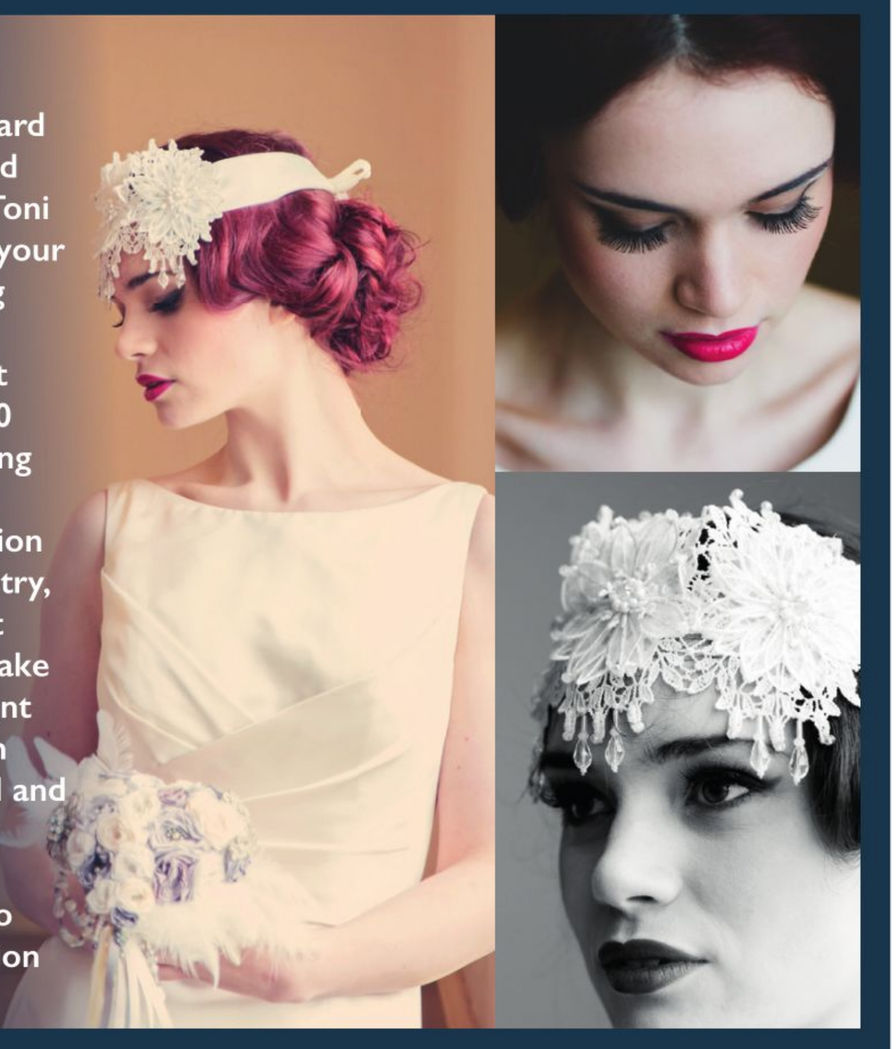

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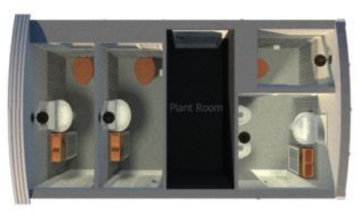

The Kent Hut:
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WHAT A TREAT!

We put the latest hair treatments through their paces to help you get luscious locks for the big day

Best for... INSTANT HYDRATION

Natura Siberica Vivid Vitamins Spray, available as part of the Rich Repair Hair Kit, £15.99, naturasiberica.co.uk

My hair has always been a bit lack-lustre, so I was excited to try this product and it didn't disappoint. Light enough to avoid looking greasy, this little gem gave my hair a new lease of life and is now one of my firm favourites. ***– Annie Cannock***

Best for... DRY HAIR

Design.ME Fab.ME Hair Moisturising Mist, £9.95, designmehair.com

This product does everything! My hair can be dry and knotty but this was great for brushing through the tangles. It made my hair feel smooth and stopped that pesky static. I've also become a bit addicted to the scent! ***– Hannah Faulder***

Best for...SPLIT ENDS

Alterna Caviar Anti-Aging Restructuring Bond Repair 3-in-1 Sealing Serum, £36, alternacaviarantiaging.com

Thick, long and prone to extreme frizz at the mere hint of rain, my hair is every bride's worst nightmare! But this serum deftly calls the most flyaway hairs to order, leaving a beautifully scented gloss finish in its wake. Better still, the flexible formation mixes with conditioner to make a luxurious repair masque for a longer-lasting effect. ***– Demelza Rayner***

Best for...MANAGEABILITY

Philip Kingsley Pomegranate & Cassis Elasticizer, £21, philipkingsley.co.uk

Run yourself a bubble bath, relax and enjoy this luxurious, super-conditioning pre-shampoo treatment. After applying the deliciously pomegranate and cassis scented cream to my wet hair and covering with a plastic shower cap I enjoyed an indulgent 20-minute soak while it worked its magic. After washing off, my hair was easier to style and felt super soft with added bounce and noticeably less frizz. For a more intensive treatment you can even leave it in overnight. ***– Sarah Reeve***

Best for...CURLY HAIR

Shea Moisture Fruit Fusion Masque, £12.99, boots.com

I have thick hair that's impossible to tame, so I was a little skeptical about this product at first. After a week of using it, I'm pleased to say I fell in love. It replenished my hair and made it feel incredibly soft and smooth. I'd definitely recommend this product for thick or damaged hair. ***– Melissa Barker***

Best for...FRIZZ

Percy & Reed Perfectly Perfecting Wonder Balm, £18, percyandreed.com

Controlling my fine hair is a constant battle as it's constantly being led astray by the elements, however, this product worked a treat! My hair looked sleek, super-shiny and didn't turn into a frizzball as soon as I set foot out the front door. Most importantly it stayed looking great and under control all day. Love it! ***– Kelly Andrews***

Best for...DAMAGED HAIR

Kerluxe Resplendisse Hair Mask, £46, kerluxe.com

This luxury item is easy to apply – simply add to cleansed, damp hair, the dry areas and ends. You'll find that even after the first application your hair feels soft and frizz-free. Ideally this product is to be applied twice a week and because it doesn't take long to work its magic, it's ideal for time-poor brides-to-be. ***– Claire Ridley***

A flair FOR HAIR

Join us as we sit down with celebrity hair stylist Earl Simms to find out how to achieve the ultimate in good hair days

Having begun his session career in London in the 1990s, Earl Simms is now a widely respected international celebrity hair stylist working between London and New York. Constantly in demand with the world's top celebrities, he travels the globe further establishing his reputation, as well as being globally recognised by brands and clients for his talent and creativity. Earl's trademark is to make hair look young, fresh and modern, transforming any hairstyle and bringing clients' visions to life.

Now, in his latest role as brand ambassador for luxury haircare brand, Kèrluxe, Earl gives his expert advice on trends, styling and vital dos and don'ts. Our beauty editor, Kelly Andrews, caught up with the haircare hero to talk style for the aisle.

How did you get to where you are now? What inspired you to be a hairdresser?

Being a hairstylist really appealed to me from a young age, I got my first job in a salon making teas and sweeping floors. Things progressed and before I knew it I was offered a job in Florence for two years working in a salon there. I gained some amazing experience and I'd say taking risks like moving to Italy is one of the reasons I'm where I am now, as well as a lot of hard work and being recommended by people I've met in the industry along the way.

I love that I get to travel the world, meet so many different people from different backgrounds with different hair types and no day is ever the same.

What hair products or tools can't you live without?

The Kèrluxe range is different in the fact that it focuses on scalp health as opposed to just the hair. It's so important that we treat our scalp with the same careful attention that we do our face – healthy skin equals healthy hair. Personally, for me, the hero products are the Caviar4 Hair Serum Elixir and the Multi-Tasking 360° Luxury Hair Styling Cream.

What's your top bridal hair trend for 2019?

I'd say a natural relaxed hairstyle. Brides need to look and feel like themselves, so the style should make them feel relaxed and confident.

You've styled Emilia Clarke, Sienna Miller, Carey Mulligan, Jenna Coleman, Victoria Beckham and Beyoncé to name a few. What's been your favourite celebrity style creation?

I'd have to say the messy disheveled look with Sienna Miller. She'd just cut her hair into a bob and we added some loose waves, messing it up a little. People still refer to that look three years later!

What styles are the celebrities asking for right now and is it possible to translate this into a wedding look for an extra stylish edge?

People love the messy bun, but to translate this into a wedding style you just need to polish it a little more. Create texture in the hair, but keep it neat.

What are your top five tops for gorgeous hair that every bride-to-be should know?

- Use a hair mask to keep the hair looking healthy and glossy.
- Try to refrain from using heat in the lead up to the big day.
- Sleep on a silk pillowcase to minimise hair breakage.
- Wash out all shampoo and conditioner thoroughly, to protect the scalp.
- When brushing or combing, start from the ends and work up to the root. People make the common mistake of brushing down the hair, but this can cause the hair to break.

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MADE TO MEASURE

I really want a dress that no one else has and am considering going bespoke. Can you tell me what would be involved?

Jennie says: At the initial consultation, you'll start by discussing your ideas with your seamstress, looking at any pictures you've brought along and working out your likes and dislikes, from the bodice and styles to sleeves and the train. Next would be taking a look at the fabric samples. The world is your oyster here, as there are so many to choose from! Together, you'd come up with a design that is as unique and special as you are while keeping within your budget.

At your first fitting, you'll try on the toile (trial run) to check the fit and make sure you're happy with the design. It's at the next fitting you'll get to slip into your actual gown. At this point, your seamstress will be making final adjustments, such as pinning the hem to the correct length.

Finally, at the last appointment, we make the final checks to be sure everything's perfect, and then you get to take your dream dress home with you. The whole process takes a minimum of five months from start to finish. You may also find that your seamstress offers a wedding day dressing service to help the morning run stress-free.

TO KNOW A-VEIL

I quite like the idea of a veil but don't know where to start. How do I pick the best one for me?

Emily says: When buying a veil, take into account how it's going to work with your dress. For example, if your gown is heavily embellished, show off the detail with a sheer veil, for a lace dress, choose one with complementary lace edging or for an on-trend simple frock, add extra detail by pairing with something more elaborate embellished with beads or pearls.

Think also about the overall look you want to achieve. A single-tier veil suits a sophisticated look, whereas multiple layers give a romantic feel to a fuller dress. Would you like to go traditional and cover your face as you walk the aisle? If so, you'll need a blusher. We don't mean rosy cheeks here, but in this case, it's the part of the veil you can pull forward over your visage.

You can also give your body shape a boost with your veil. Mid-length versions will draw attention to delicate features, suiting a pear shape perfectly. If you're tall or blessed with a bust, you'll be able to rock a long veil. Petite ladies out there, you'll be looking for waist-length or shorter.

Finally, bear in mind how you'll wear your hair, which will determine where the veil sits. For up dos, a long, heavy veil pinned to the back of your head is showstopping, and with short hair, the veil will usually be best placed towards the front of your head because there'll be less support for it."

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BE PREPARED

I'm excited to start dress shopping! What can I expect from my appointment, and how can I make sure I get the best out of it? Is there anything I need to prepare?

Lou says: Go with an open mind. It's great to have a style or fabric in mind, but it's also good to try on gowns that are outside of your comfort zone, as you never know.

At your first appointment, you just need to bring yourself and your guests to be ready to enjoy the whole process. It should be the best time and the most fun! Try on as many different styles in as many fabrics as possible – this way, you'll know with certainty that you're choosing the right design for you. Never be pressured into making a decision. Trust your instinct. You'll know if it's the one.

CONTACT THE EXPERTS

Emily Cumming, bella-may-bridal.co.uk
Lou Slaughter, evarosebridal.co.uk
Jennie West, @jenniewestseamstress

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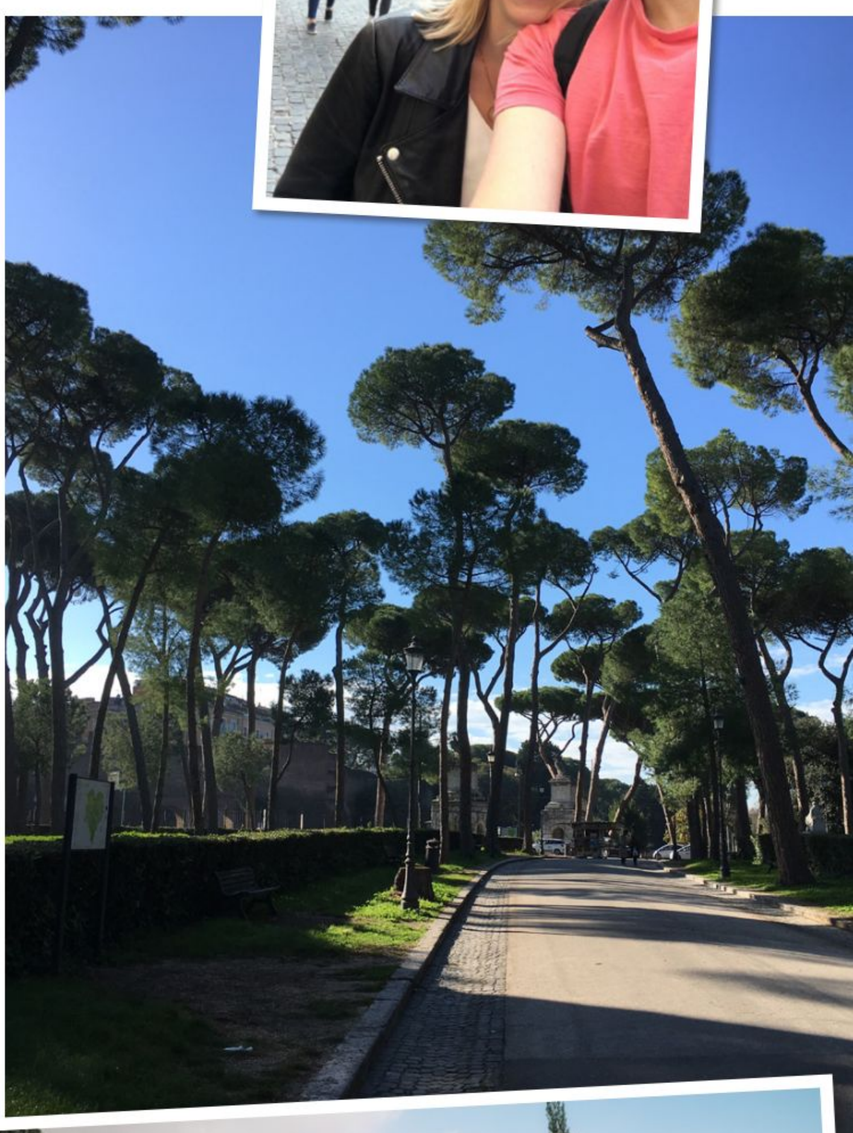
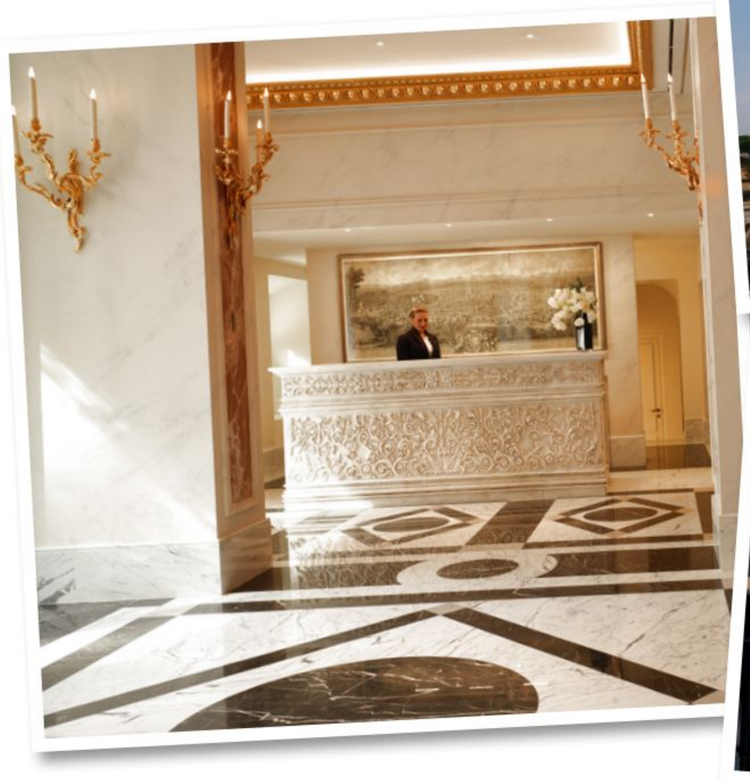
La dolce vita

Paris may be the city of love but Rome is all about romance, finds Georgina Cassels

What is marriage? Marriage is knowing that your wife must arrive at the airport at least 17 hours before your flight in order that she not have a panic attack. As Mr Cassels and I set off at silly o'clock on a Thursday morning, I smiled (not just because we were embarking on a two-night, child-free break) but because it's those little things – accepting each other's foibles without comment or complaint – that make a marriage.

And arriving at Hotel Eden a few hours later (admittedly a few more than necessary due to the afore-mentioned over-zealous punctuality), not only made me feel like a honeymooner all over again but also further reflect on those all-important little things that lead to lifelong love. For the exceptional luxury and comfort (and believe me, I have been privileged enough to stay in a LOT of luxury hotels so when I say exceptional, I mean it) at Hotel Eden comes not from the gleaming marble bath that's large enough for a party, the capacious walk-in-wardrobe, the welcome feast of chocolates, fruit and prosecco laid out in the sitting room of our suite or even the cloud-like mattress – although all those things were present and correct. Nor is it found in the impeccable yet approachable service as we were folded into the bosom of this Italian family. No, it's in the tiniest of touches, the barely discernible moments that elevate cossetting and indulgence into an art form. My room key was handed to me





in a keepsake leather holder, with my initials stamped on for posterity, a bookmark was placed in my book every night at turndown, a cleaning cloth tucked underneath my sunglasses.

Just as well, for despite having booked a November break with zero expectation that it would be anything but cold and a little grey at best, the weather was exceptional throughout our stay. Indeed, checked in, we decided to take a gentle wander around the city in the hours that remained before dinner and it wasn't long before we were shedding layers like onions. Thanks to the hotel's superb location, but a few minutes' walk from the Spanish steps, it also wasn't long before we were ticking off the key monuments, one by one – Piazza di Spagna, the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, the Trevi fountain, plus an exhibition of Miles Hyman's drawings of the city that we ducked into en route. Oh, and naturally an ice cream. When in Rome, as the saying goes. Back at the hotel, there was just time for a glass of prosecco in that incredible bath before dinner. The hotel's Michelin-starred fine-dining restaurant, La Terrazza, is world-renowned but on this occasion, we opted for the more relaxed Il Giardino – ideal after a day's travel. Both benefit from simply stunning views – the whole of Rome twinkled before us and the maitre'd was more than happy to point out all the major landmarks. It wasn't long, however, before our heads were turned by the menu. Finding it hard to narrow down my choices, I opted for a dish of stuffed pumpkin flowers with ricotta, taleggio, black olives and cherry tomatoes on our waiter's recommendation, followed by Roman specialty Mezzi rigatoni all'Amatriciana (pasta with a tomato, bacon and pecorino sauce) while hubby dearest chose carpaccio di manzo with parmesan and a pumpkin and taleggio risotto. Eyes sparkling almost as much as the spumante we washed everything down with, as dish after dish delighted, we were too full to do justice to the pudding selection – opting instead for a scoop of pistachio ice cream before we carried our stomachs to bed.

And with a solid eight hours chalked up thanks to the king-size bed and distinct lack of toddler, we were soon back admiring the view once more – this time in daylight and with Francesco, our friendly waiter, catering to my caffeine habit and Mr Cassels' immense love of breakfast foods.

It was just as well, then, that we'd scheduled in a brief pause post primacolazione for a tour of the hotel's spa (me) and a peruse of the day's news in the elegant lobby (hubby) before a run. Smug, us much? Yes, the hotel's proximity to the Villa Borghese gardens, Rome's third largest public park, was too much to resist and we clocked up a quick 5K between the umbrella pines before heading out for the day.

At the Miles Hyman exhibition the previous day, a sketch of Trastevere, a neighbourhood I'd not explored on past visits to the city, caught my eye so we headed for the river, past the Forum's ruins and Colosseum's towering arches. Staring into the city's origins, its monuments' past opened up for all to see bought to mind the ages of our marriage – a foundation of optimistic newlyweds, walls battered by birth and death but still standing, shored up with the mortar of kindness here, thoughtfulness there – preserving all for another day. To me, that is romance. It's no coincidence that Rome shares the same letters.

Trastevere delivered – a locality on a smaller scale with its cobbled streets, strung with washing and ochre facades glowing in the November sunshine. We stopped for pizza al fresco – all the better to enjoy the glorious autumn day. On we walked, mounting a steep hill that winds around the contours of the botanic gardens to the Vatican. Admittedly, there may have been a slight competitive edge to our step count but Rome had us spellbound. We walked hand in hand, we stopped for ice creams, admired leather handbags and bought a Christmas decoration (a family tradition) before diving into a tiny neighbourhood bar just minutes from our hotel for beers, an impressive antipasto platter groaning with grilled vegetables, cheese and cured meat and spaghetti carbonara.

Our Roman holiday was over but the overwhelming feeling that life together is indeed sweet has endured. Hence the very title of this piece. La Dolce Vita lives on at Hotel Eden.

MY HIGHLIGHTS

❤ A walk around Monti – thwarted by the crowds at the Colosseum (a word of advice – book advance tickets people – we cursed ourselves for not having asked Hotel Eden's concierge to help), we took a stroll around Rome's 'creative' enclave. East London it ain't but there are a plethora of bookshops, lively cafes and independent stores.

❤ Visit the Trevi fountain at night – it's lit, the crowds are gone and you can throw your coin in peace – tradition has it that this guarantees your return.

❤ Ice cream at Fiocco di Neve – tucked just around the corner from the Pantheon, this artisan gelateria is not to be missed.

❤ Luxuriating in the bath – I love a hotel bathroom and Hotel Eden's are the best of the best. Think Bottega Veneta bubbles, brass taps and a gleaming white marble surround. Bliss.

❤ The view from Il Giardino never gets old – whether afternoon tea or an apertivo in the bar, breakfast, brunch or dinner in the restaurant, it's a must.

BOOK IT

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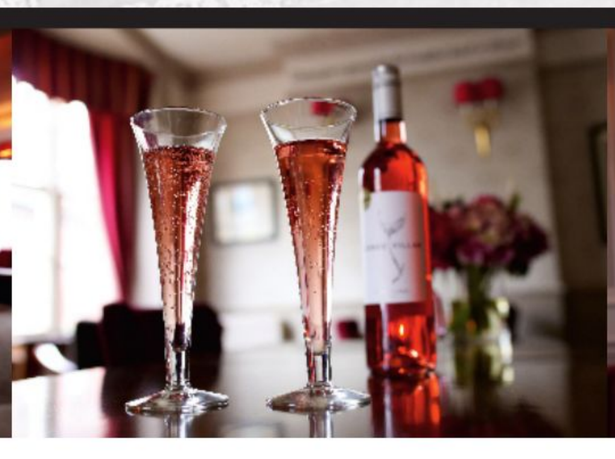
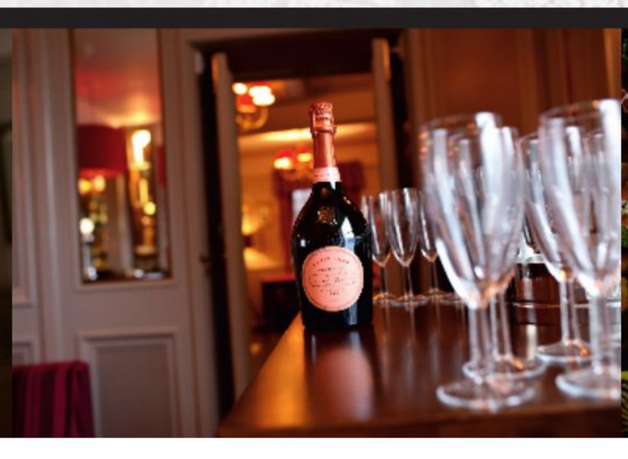
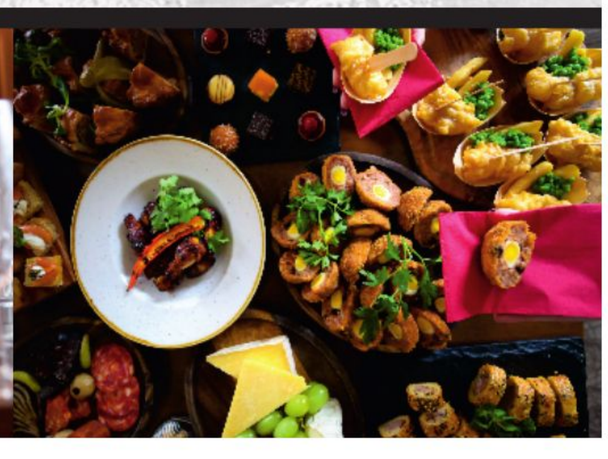

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JUN/JUL 2019

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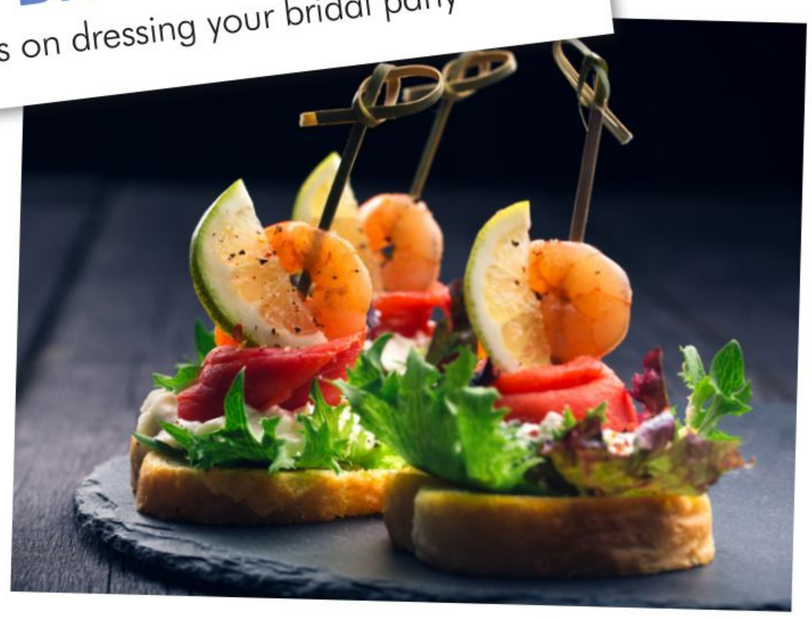
#BRIDETRIBE

Top tips on dressing your bridal party



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

We talk top nosh with catering experts

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Our guide to Sussex's hotel and spa venues

MARRIAGE MATERIAL

Our readers tell us about their big days

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The newlywed wish list: *accessories edit*

Annie Cannock brings together a fabulous selection of products to add to your home

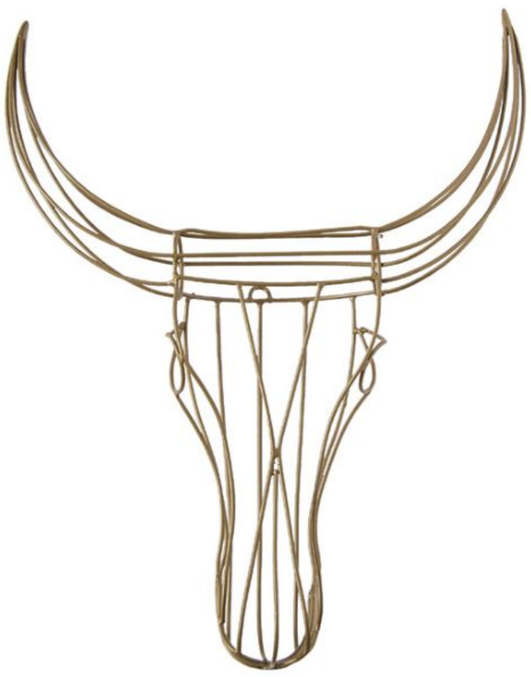
Curva stool gold, £175, amara.com

Rhonda Antique Gold Room Screen, £330, artisanti.com

Metal wire fruit bowl, £24.95, cultfurniture.com

Glass bottle vase, £10.50, giselagraham.co.uk

Villandry mirror, £POA, oficinainglesa.com



Nguni Wire Head, £113, safarifusion.com.au

Pamplemousse luxury reed diffuser, £24, frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk

Luxe edit glass organiser, £18, debenhams.com

Gold minimal wall clock, £16.99, homesense.com

Gold-dipped carafe, £22, johnlewis.com

Core gold pen, £8, paperchase.com

Urban paradise rose gold margarita glass, £4.50, sainsburys.co.uk

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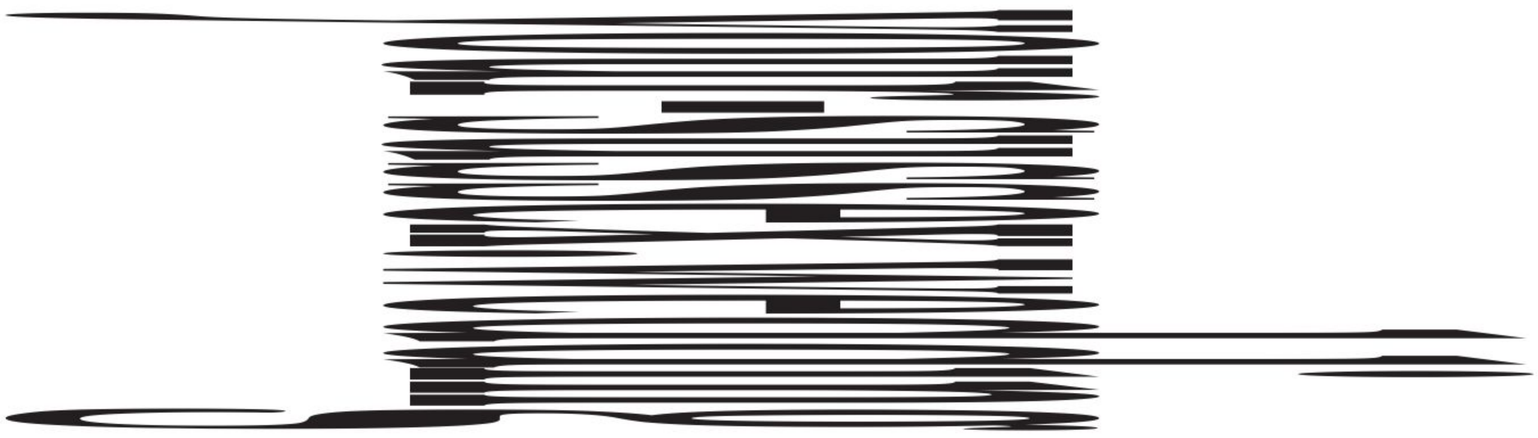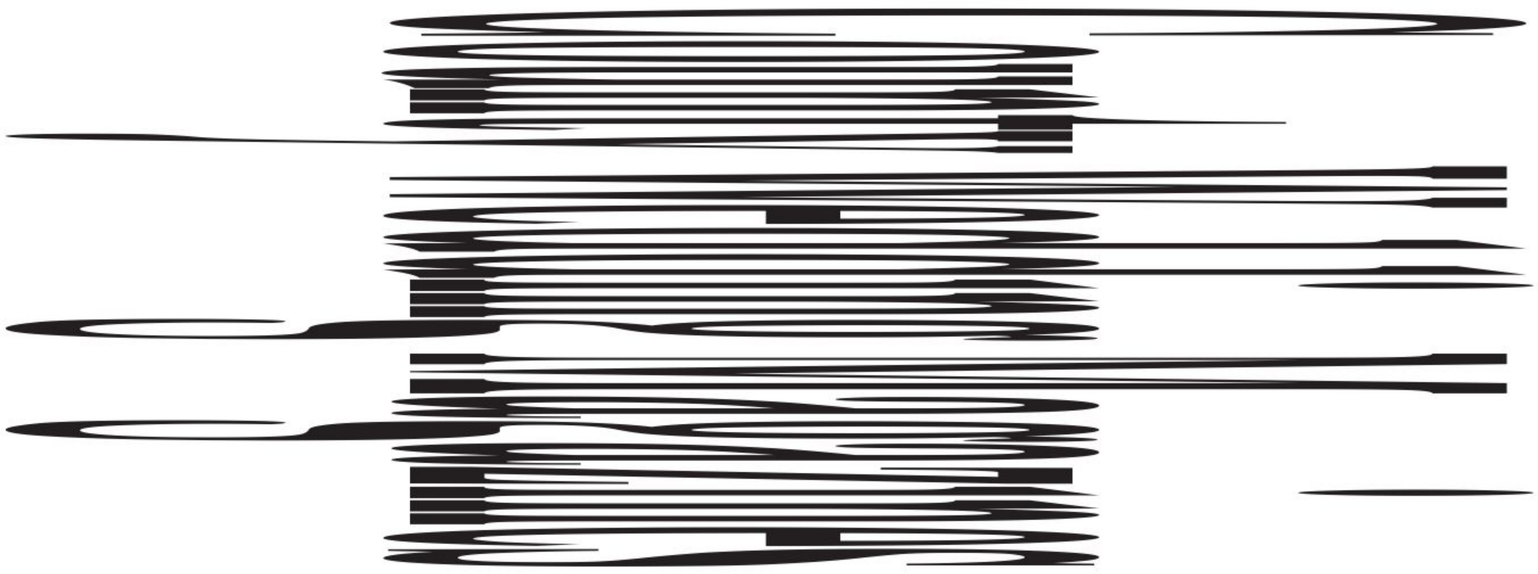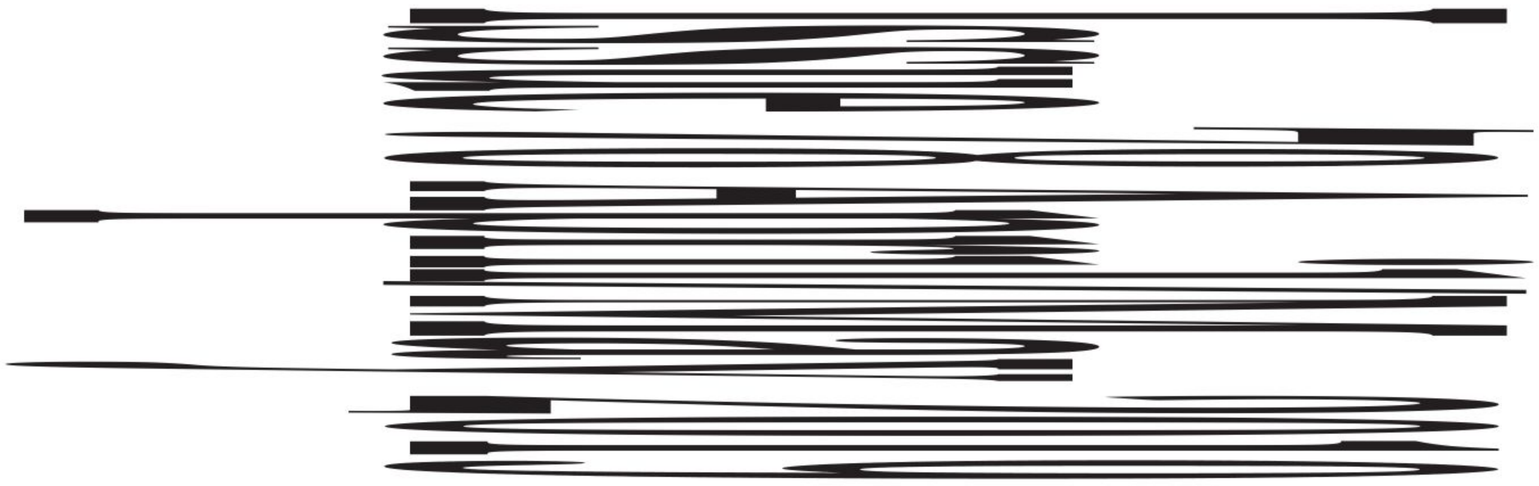
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